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French officer killed in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A French army truce observer was killed by a sniper while he was on duty at Beirut's dividing green line on Wednesday, military and hospital sources said. They said Captain Michel Antoine Corvee, 39, was fatally wounded in the head at 10.45 p.m. at the gates of the former French ambassadorial residence in the Palais des Pins. The French colonial villa where Capt. Corvee was shot is located in no-man's-land between Beirut's mostly Christian eastern and predominantly Muslim western sectors. In Paris, Paul Quilès, the defence minister, denounced what he said was "this cowardly attack on a French military officer who was carrying out a mission of peace." France sent a detachment of observers to Lebanon in 1984 at the request of the Lebanese government and parties involved in the conflict, a spokesman added.

Jordan Times

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U.N. delegate meets Perez de Cuellar

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's permanent envoy to the United Nations, Mr. Abdullah Sabab, met here on Tuesday with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mr. Sabab reviewed with Mr. Perez de Cuellar the latest developments in the Middle East and the peace process. Mr. Sabab reaffirmed that Jordan will continue intensive efforts to achieve a peaceful, just and honourable solution to the Middle East problem.

UNRWA calls for donor meeting

VIENNA (R) — The head of the U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees in the Middle East has called on major donors to meet in Vienna on May 22 and 23 to discuss a permanent funding shortfall. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has a budget of \$197 million for this year, but estimated income is \$178 million, its commissioner-general, Giorgio Giacomelli, said. The projected \$19 million shortfall for this year follows a serious cash shortage in 1985.

Israeli, Egyptian negotiators meet

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and Egyptian delegates met on Wednesday for another round of talks aimed at narrowing differences on how to submit a border dispute to international arbitration. The delegations, along with several U.S. diplomats and legal experts, met at a Mediterranean seaside hotel in the town of Herzliya, 13 kilometres north of Tel Aviv. The sides were seeking agreement on what questions to put to a team of arbiters who will determine whether the tiny Red Sea border beach of Tabu belongs to Egypt or to Israel. Currently, Israel occupies the border enclave.

Soviets launch manned spacecraft today

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said on Wednesday it would launch a Soyuz spacecraft on Thursday with two cosmonauts aboard, and Western specialists said they believed it would probably clash with the new orbiting Mir space station. Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovoy, who broke the world endurance record in 1984 with fellow cosmonaut Oleg Atkov by spending 238 days in space, will be launched at 12:33 GMT on Thursday, the official news agency TASS said.

Zia pledges more efforts for better relations with India

ISLAMABAD (AP) — President Mohammad Zia ul Haq said on Wednesday Pakistan will keep striving for good relations with India and the peaceful settlement of a major border dispute between the two nations. General Zia told reporters Pakistan would continue its five-year-old "peace offensive" to normalise relations with India.

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APU conference ends; resolutions cover Gulf war, Palestinian issue

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Arab Parliament Union (APU) concluded its fourth conference on Wednesday and recommendations of the two-day deliberations of the meeting were expected to be announced late Wednesday or early today.

A closed door meeting of the delegates from 13 Arab countries and pan-Arab organisations was putting the final touches to the recommendations and amending some of the draft resolutions. The resolutions covered issues such as the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian problem and U.S.-Israeli policies in the Middle East, the Israeli occupation of Syria's Golan Heights and the American stand towards Arab countries.

The closed-door meeting was continuing late Wednesday night and informed sources said the delegates were trying to find common ground between conflicting stands among certain Arab countries over the draft resolutions. The draft resolutions were submitted to the full APU conference by special committees set up for the purpose. Sources told the Jordan Times that the differences were mainly

Assad receives papal message, pledges to seek Lebanese peace

DAMASCUS (AP) — Pope John Paul II's special envoy, Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, conferred on Wednesday with President Hafez Al Assad seeking to revive Syrian efforts to pacify Lebanon after 11 years of civil war. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Mr. Silvestrini, the Holy See's foreign minister, delivered a letter to Mr. Assad from the Pope dealing with the efforts to restore peace to Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a and the papal nuncios in Lebanon and Syria, Monsignors Luciano Angeloni and Nicola Ronanno. Monsignor Silvestrini stressed the Vatican's confidence in the wisdom of the Syrian president and his ability to resolve the Lebanese crisis," SANA reported. It quoted Mr. Silvestrini as saying Mr. Assad's "great power will push Lebanon in the right direction towards unity, stability and security and consecrate its Arab identity and its distinguished relations with Syria."

Pro-NATO outcome seen in Spanish referendum

MADRID (R) — A majority of Spaniards in a crucial referendum on Wednesday supported the government's bid to keep Spain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), a prominent Socialist leader said. The "yes" vote has obtained a clear victory, the position defended by the Socialist government has won," Mr. Txiki Benegas, organisation secretary of the ruling Workers Socialist Party (PSOE) told reporters as polls closed. The official centre for sociological research put the government's lead at as much as eight per cent while the state-run television put it at five to eight per cent. The leading private radio network SER put the lead at 49.5 for continued membership of NATO to 44.7 per cent for communists, pacifists and leftists who called for withdrawal. Disappointed leaders of the anti-NATO movement called the results a moral victory for pacifists and urged them to keep up the fight for withdrawal from NATO. "This is a grave warning for the government that people do not feel represented by their representatives," anti-NATO leader Antonio Gala told reporters.

Swedish parliament endorses Carlsson as prime minister

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Social Democrat Ingvar Carlsson was elected to succeed assassinated Prime Minister Olof Palme on Wednesday, his succession endorsed even by his party's opponents in the Swedish parliament. Stockholm Police Commissioner Hans Holmer reported no developments in the hunt for Mr. Palme's killer. "I have nothing new," he told reporters at his daily press briefing. "I regard the situation as unchanged." Mr. Holmer said investigators were getting a clearer idea of what happened after Mr. Palme was shot, but that they still had not decided whether the killer worked



Petra photo

TALKS ON FIVE-YEAR PLAN: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday addresses a meeting in Taffeh which discussed various aspects of the national 1986-1990 five-year plan (Story on page 3)

French mediator remains under wraps in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — France's independent mediator Razab Raad bargained in secret with the kidnappers of French hostages on Wednesday, but his efforts produced no sign of a breakthrough. Dr. Raad, a Lebanese-born physician turned politician, remained underground for a second day as an official French envoy, Serge Boidevaux, met Nabih Berri, Lebanon's most powerful Shiite leader.

Dr. Raad is the only negotiator the kidnappers — the shadowy Islamic Jihad (holy war) — have said they will talk with. The hostage crisis deepened amid the final runoff to France's National Assembly elections on Sunday and heated debate over the government's failure to free the captives. He is running in the election on a Gaullist ticket. However, Islamic Jihad stressed in its last full communiqué on Monday: "We do not want to go into the election auctions in favour of any party against the other."

Philippines investigates Marcos' bids to 'influence' U.S. leaders

MANILA (R) — The Philippine government sent an investigator to Washington on Wednesday to probe alleged attempts by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos to buy influence in the White House. The head of a commission trying to claw back Mr. Marcos's estimated \$10 billion hidden wealth said he aimed to uncover a reported six-year drive by Mr. Marcos to "capture" U.S. goodwill at the highest level. Jovita Salonga, chairman of President Corazon Aquino's commission on good government, told reporters at Manila airport the charges had still to be proved but added: "All these will be verified by the commission. The truth or falsity will be a matter for the commission to determine."

New probe fuels speculation on Kohl's future

BONN (Agencies) — The launch of a second legal investigation against West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl prompted speculation on Wednesday that he could be forced from office before national elections in January next year. The start of new formal proceedings against the chancellor was announced on Tuesday and some commentators said on Wednesday it was still unclear how much damage the affair would cause him as poll campaigning gets under way. In one of the sharpest reactions to the news that Dr. Kohl now faces two inquiries which could each lead to criminal charges, the conservative daily General Anzeiger said Dr. Kohl's authority was now waning and the SPD stood to gain from his troubles. "After the sunshine of an economic revival the chancellor is suffering one blow after another," the newspaper said. "Ten months before national elections it is no longer certain that he will be in office when they take place." Some independent political analysts on radio and television took the same view and predicted Dr. Kohl would have no choice but to step down if the two proceedings against him led to prosecution. The parliamentary leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) called the opening of the second prosecutor's probe against Chancellor Kohl a "serious event." Hans-Jochen Vogel spoke to reporters a day after the Bonn prosecutor's office announced the opening of an investigation in a political contributions case. A state prosecutor in Koblenz on Feb. 24 opened a similar investigation also stemming from alleged illegal political contributions. Mr. Vogel reminded reporters that the Koblenz probe is the first prosecutor's investigation against a chancellor in office since West Germany was formed in 1949. Many major dailies also took a cautious approach to the new legal inquiry and indicated uncertainty about how to evaluate the political damage it could cause to the chancellor. But in an indication that the affair could well emerge into a major election issue, a senior CDU official charged that the SPD could be behind them. Friedrich Bohl, parliamentary business manager of Dr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, said the SPD was implicated in the decision to open the new proceedings because it rules in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia.

Iraqis raid Iranian camp, oil complex

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Wednesday its warplanes bombed an Iranian military camp and another oil facility and inflicted heavy casualties and damage.

Iran also said it bombed Iraqi facilities on Wednesday and renewed its warning to Arab countries in the Gulf region to stop supporting Iraq in the war. Baghdad Radio said formations of Iraqi war planes bombed an Iranian oil complex at Ganavch on the eastern coast of the Gulf, setting it ablaze. The jets then raided the Musak military camp in southern Iran, inflicting heavy casualties and damage, the radio said. An Iranian war communiqué, carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said Iranian jets struck at the Iraqi military command headquarters south of the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Iraq pardons deported dissidents

PARIS (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has pardoned two Iraqi dissidents expelled to Iraq by France two weeks ago, an action Islamic Jihad has claimed led to the alleged execution of French hostage Michel Seurat in Lebanon, the French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said reports of the pardon "correspond with information (it) received from Baghdad." Iraqi sources in Baghdad were reported to have said the two men, Fawzi Hamza and Mohammad Hassan Khairiddine, were free to return to France if they wished. The two men were among 13 militants of Mideast or African origin expelled by France after a roundup following a series of bomb explosions in Paris stores. There was no allegation any of those expelled were involved in the bombings.

Murphy: All parties should reassess approach towards Mideast peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy recommended on Wednesday that all countries involved in the Middle East conflict reassess how to launch peace talks between Israel and the Arabs. Emerging from an 85-minute meeting with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the assistant secretary of state told reporters: "We are all in a period of reflection about how to move ahead on this." He said he had a "very thoughtful exchange" with Rabin on Middle East and bilateral issues but declined further comment. An Israeli communiqué issued after the meeting said Rabin and Mr. Murphy discussed the latest speeches of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in which he accused Israel of plotting to occupy Arab lands and vowed to achieve military balance with Israel.

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Weinberger hopes U.S.-Jordan military relationship will continue

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger expressed the hope that the United States-Jordan military relationship will endure.

At a press briefing in Washington, a questioner paraphrased King Hussein to the effect that the military relationship between the United States and Jordan had come to an end.

In reply, Mr. Weinberger said, "I would very much hope that the military relationship has not come to an end, and I don't really believe that it has."

Mr. Weinberger explained that the United States has "many cogent interests in the Middle East with Jordan... it is extremely important, I think, that we maintain a close working relationship."

Regarding other Middle East concerns, Mr. Weinberger said: "The United States certainly would be glad to work with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to help bring about an end to the Iran-Iraq war."

— The United States is concerned about renewed tensions on the Israeli-Syrian front.

— The United States is doing its best to promote President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative of September 1982.

In the wide-ranging press briefing, Secretary Weinberger was also asked about the Strategic Defence Initiative, nuclear weapons testing, Nicaragua, Korea, Japan, and New Zealand.

Following are Middle East-related excerpts from the transcript of the Weinberger press briefing, which took place March 10 at the Foreign Press Centre in Washington:

Question: Mr. Secretary, how do you view the recent development in the Iraq-Iran war, and are you concerned about the threat of the Iranian occupation of Fao on the Gulf Cooperation Council? And what is the U.S. contribution to keep the Iraqis from attacking such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

Secretary Weinberger: Well, the United States does not make contributions in that war, I think it's fair to say that we are, of course, concerned about what could be a destabilising development if the Iraqi Armed Forces don't restore the position of the salient at Al Fao. It has long been recognised by us that our best course, and the best course for the Middle East, would be to have that war end. And destabilising developments in the war, I think quite properly, have excited the concern of the

Gulf Cooperation Council. And I think that they are trying in every way they can to bring about an end to that war, and we certainly would be glad to work with them in ways that they think are appropriate.

Q: A recent DOD (Department of Defence) report that the Israeli Lavi fighter is overpriced has apparently caused friction between Israel and the United States. Do you think the Israelis can continue at this rate, at the current level? And what advice might you give them?

A: Well, I would hesitate very much to give advice to Israelis on aircraft construction or what they wish to procure. At their request, we furnished information with respect to what we saw as cost trends, and ultimate costs. It's a very expensive thing to develop both aircraft industry and a new plane. And we gave them the best information that we could, and what use they make of it will be entirely up to them.

Q: Following the renewed tension on the Israeli-Syrian front, and as the Soviets have a mutual defence pact with Syria and the U.S. has some strategic cooperation with Israel, how concerned are you at this tension and could it be a conflagration point for the superpowers?

A: Well, anything could be in the Middle East and we want very much to try to avoid that. We're obviously concerned with any increased tension, and we obviously do our very best to secure the president's peace initiative for the Middle East which I think offers really the only viable hope for a lasting peace in that region. Anything that interferes with that or anything that delays its accomplishment is, of course, an unfortunate event from our point of view. So that would be the way we would view that.

Q: King Hussein recently stated that the military relationship between Jordan and the U.S. has come to an end. In light of recent problems over arms to Jordan on Capitol Hill, has that relationship really come to an end?

A: Well, I hope not. I think it would be very unfortunate if it had. And I think the King shares that feeling. We have many congruent interests in the Middle East with Jordan and with many other countries in the Middle East. And it is extremely important, I think, that

we maintain a close working relationship. And certainly, there have been many, many years of close personal relationships as well as great friendship between the United States and Jordan. And I would very much hope that the military relationship has not come to an end, and I don't really believe that it has. I hope not.

Q: If I may follow up on the Lavi question, Mr. Secretary, a year ago at a similar news conference here, you weren't, I would say, very fond of the creation of the Lavi jetfighter in Israel. Since then, did you change your mind?

A: No, I haven't changed my mind. I don't recall ever expressing publicly any feelings about it one way or the other. It's entirely a matter of what the Israeli government wants to do. We have pointed out to them at their request the very, very, substantial costs involved in such a venture and given them other information about other planes and that sort of thing that they asked for, but I have, I thought, relatively carefully refrained from giving anybody any advice on any of these matters. If we're asked for some specific pieces of information, we give it, but there's no question whatever, and everybody agrees, that building a new plane from scratch of that kind is an enormously expensive undertaking; and they ask for various cost figures and those have been furnished to them, and I think that our estimates probably differed somewhat from some of the earlier ones they had. What they do with it is entirely up to them.

Q: Mr. Secretary, Israeli Air Force commander Gen. Lapidot, when he was asked by CBS's Morley Safer about the Israeli Air Force crossing the borders into other countries such as Iraq and Tunisia said that the Israeli Air Force will do it again in other areas, to paraphrase what he said. In light of your strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, how do you comment on such objectives, an approach of Israeli Air Force to go wherever they want to go?

A: I didn't hear his statement, so I wouldn't be able to comment on it in any detail. The American military assistance and American military technologies incorporated into weapons systems are all required to be used for self-defence, and that has been part of our law for a long time, and I don't know that anything he said — since I didn't hear it — in any way contravenes that.

Q: Last week, there were reports in town that the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) proposed to the administration a deal that they would help them on behalf of getting the aid to the Contras, and in return the administration will cut down the arms sales to Saudi Arabia. What do you think of this proposal, to what extent the government will go with such a deal? And in light of this report, what is the status of the Saudi sale at this time?

A: I have not heard of any such proposal and I don't think that there would be any feeling that matters of that kind should be linked. We do think that assistance to the Contras is vital for the defence of the United States as well as for the securing of basic, elementary rights to the Contras. And as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, we think the conditions in the Gulf, some of which were alluded to earlier, require an additional strengthening of their defences. I don't think that they are linked in any way.

Q: Usually President Assad is a restrained man who doesn't make idle statements, the paper quoted him as telling the committee. "It's wise to listen to Assad himself, not his spokesman."

The defence minister referred to two recent speeches by Syrian President Hafez Assad which included a pledge to reach military parity with Israel. Mr. Assad said Syria intended to win back the strategic Golan Heights which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in 1981.

Rabin also dismissed statements by Syrian government officials denying that Syria had warlike intentions.

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A: Well, anything could be in the Middle East and we want very much to try to avoid that. We're obviously concerned with any increased tension, and we obviously do our very best to secure the president's peace initiative for the Middle East which I think offers really the only viable hope for a lasting peace in that region. Anything that interferes with that or anything that delays its accomplishment is, of course, an unfortunate event from our point of view. So that would be the way we would view that.

Q: King Hussein recently stated that the military relationship between Jordan and the U.S. has come to an end. In light of recent problems over arms to Jordan on Capitol Hill, has that relationship really come to an end?

A: Well, I hope not. I think it would be very unfortunate if it had. And I think the King shares that feeling. We have many congruent interests in the Middle East with Jordan and with many other countries in the Middle East. And it is extremely important, I think, that

we maintain a close working relationship. And certainly, there have been many, many years of close personal relationships as well as great friendship between the United States and Jordan. And I would very much hope that the military relationship has not come to an end, and I don't really believe that it has. I hope not.

Q: If I may follow up on the Lavi question, Mr. Secretary, a year ago at a similar news conference here, you weren't, I would say, very fond of the creation of the Lavi jetfighter in Israel. Since then, did you change your mind?

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Planned \$354m U.S. missile sale to Saudis called 'a signal to Iran'

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration says it advanced plans to sell missiles worth \$354 million to Saudi Arabia as a signal to Iran, "whose recent successes" in its war with Iraq have increased its threat in the Gulf.

Plans for the sale were sent Tuesday to Congress, where it faces opposition from supporters of Israel.

A senior State Department official said the administration had intended to propose the sale later this year but had concluded that "the Saudis face an immediate threat."

There had also been a direct, high-level request from the Saudi leadership, he said.

Calling Saudi Arabia the key to the defence of the strategically important Gulf states, the official, who asked not to be named, told reporters: "Our willingness to support Saudi self-defence has served as a deterrent to Iran. Acting now will send a strong signal to Iran."

The Iranian success in capturing and holding the Iraqi oil port of Fao against repeated Iraqi counter-attacks has moved the war close to the border of Kuwait.

and increased the apparent threat to the Gulf states supporting Iraq.

The proposed sale includes 1,666 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, 200 shoulder-fired Stinger ground-to-air missiles and 100 Harpoon air-to-sea missiles.

The official said similar weapons were already in the hands of the Saudis and the new missiles would not threaten Israel's military edge.

The Israeli government opposes arms sales to Arab states with which it is still technically at war and congressional opponents planned to introduce a resolution to bar the sale during the 50-day period it is before Congress.

The State Department official said the administration believed it could prevail although he said: "It's going to be a difficult fight."

The official said deliveries of the missiles were due to be made between 1989 and 1991.

Last September, the administration dropped plans to sell Saudi Arabia new top-of-the-line F-15 fighters after the Saudis decided to buy 48 British Tornado fighters and 30 Hawk trainers worth more than \$4 billion.

Also, in the face of strong congressional opposition, the administration last month indefinitely postponed plans to sell Jordan up to \$1.9 billion worth of sophisticated arms.

Delivery of the first of five Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft will be made to Saudi Arabia in June after Mr. Reagan makes a required certification to Congress that the sale enhances regional security and that the Saudis have helped the Middle East peace process.

The AWACS aircraft were part of a highly controversial Saudi arms package worth about \$8.5 billion.

Senator Alan Cranston, a leading supporter of Israel and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, announced he would introduce a resolution to disapprove the sale if the administration pressed ahead with formal notification.

Sen. Cranston, a California Democrat, said he opposed the sale "because of the hostility Saudi Arabia has shown for fundamental U.S. national security interests in the Middle East, which he said included Washington's military and economic support for Israel and Egypt."

Libya voices disappointment with India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Muammar Qadhafi was quoted Wednesday as saying that India disappointed him by not supporting Libya during its recent dispute with the United States.

The Libyan leader also was quoted as saying that Libya would never help Pakistan build a nuclear bomb, as some U.S. officials have charged.

The Indian Express, an English-language independent daily, said the interview took place Monday night outside a tent at a military barracks in Tripoli.

"During the American confrontation the stand of India was not what was expected," Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying.

"India, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, should have expressed unrestricted and unwavering support against this Zionist-American joint aggression."

Col. Qadhafi called for "direct dialogue and direct meetings" to resolve differences with India over the issue. The newspaper said a top Qadhafi aide, identified as Maj. Abdul Salam Jalloud, would visit India later this month.

The United States accused Libya of backing terrorists who attacked the Rome and Vienna

airports on Dec. 27, killing 20 people. Libya denied involvement.

America imposed an economic embargo, froze Libyan assets in the United States and ordered Americans to leave Libya. U.S. forces also held military manoeuvres off the coast.

Col. Qadhafi said Libya would not help Pakistan build a nuclear bomb.

"We don't even give ourselves money to manufacture nuclear bombs," he said. "We consider nuclear weapons would be a fatal mistake against humanity."

Sharon defeats Begin's son in party vote

TEL AVIV (AP) — Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon won a decisive victory over Benjamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin in a key vote which could have significant bearing on the future of Israel's largest right-wing party.

Sharon received 56 per cent of the votes of almost 2,000 delegates to the Herut Party convention for the post of chairman of the Mandates Committee which selects delegates for the party conventions.

Sharon, the controversial architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion, joined forces with housing leader David Levy to challenge the leadership of Yitzhak Shamir as head of Herut.

The vote was viewed by observers as a battle between the old guard of the right-wing movement and new, populist forces represented by Sharon and Levy who is of Moroccan origin.

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Benjamin's father, Menachem Begin, and Shamir were leaders of the Jewish terrorist groups which attacked the British and the Arab inhabitants in Palestine before the

establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

The 42-year-old Benjamin Begin has not been active in politics until now and has not established a power base of his own. But he was regarded as the symbolic successor of the party's veteran leadership and was an avowed foe of Sharon.

In a speech before Tuesday's balloting Sharon told the convention delegates he regarded the vote as a vote of confidence. In 1983, Sharon was removed from the post of defence minister,

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Arab universities' council to convene here Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will open its 19th council meeting in Amman on Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

AAU Secretary General Mohammad Dugheim said in a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the council will discuss a number of subjects including the establishment of an information and data centre at AAU headquarters in Amman. Other topics on the agenda include the equivalence of Arab and foreign certificates and diplomas, introducing a unified scale of uni-

versity professors in terms of degrees and future plans for higher education within the Arab World, Dr. Dugheim said.

He continued that the council will also discuss amendments to AAU regulations and bylaws and a number of proposals on holding seminars to be held in the coming two years, in addition to organising a sports festival for Arab universities and a number of administration procedures.

According to Dr. Dugheim, representatives of 55 member universities will attend the three-day meeting.

AMPCO to start processing tomatoes at Ghor Safi factory

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) plans to start processing tomatoes at its factory in Ghor Al Safi, southern Jordan, as soon as it receives consignments from tomato growers in that region, AMPCO Director General Marwan Dudin announced Wednesday.

He said that AMPCO had earlier made contracts with farmers to buy tomato crops and that it will only accept consignments agreed on for processing in implementation of a government decision in this respect.

In the meantime, AMPCO will continue to receive consignments of tomatoes for export, provided they conform to the quality standards set by the government, Mr. Dudin said.

He said that AMPCO can only receive between 150 and 180 tonnes of tomatoes daily for export and so far no additional consignments have been arriving at its centres from local producers. Unless the tomatoes intended for export are of good quality, he said, AMPCO will not undertake to market the commodity abroad.

West Germany banking team concludes visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the West German Reconstruction and Development Bank left Amman Wednesday at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit the delegation toured projects being carried out in the country with West German assistance and discussed with Jordanian officials a programme for West German aid to

implement development projects in Jordan.

Among the projects that have been implemented with aid from West Germany are the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, the East Ghor Canal in the Jordan Valley and the on-going project for the development of lands in the Zarqa River Basin.

Audit Bureau director returns from accountancy meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Audit Bureau, Dr. Hisham Al Dabbas, returned to Amman from Tunis after representing Jordan at the Arab League's higher executive council for accountancy and audit control which concluded its meeting on March 8.

He said in a statement upon returning to Amman that the six-day council meeting approved a proposal for holding training courses during 1986 at different levels for

Arab personnel employed in Arab audit departments. The council also agreed to hold seminars designed to raise the efficiency of accountants and auditors in Arab public organisations.

The council meeting also decided to hold a general conference for heads of central Arab audit bureaux in the United Arab Emirates in December, Dr. Dabbas said.

UNRWA calls meeting to review agency programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has called for a meeting by major contributors to UNRWA's budget to examine the agency's programmes and to debate its future, according to an UNRWA release made available in Jordan on Wednesday.

The release said that UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli called for the meeting which will also be attended by representatives of Arab countries hosting refugees in the Middle East region.

UNRWA provides education, health and relief services to Palestine refugees living in the host countries and also in the Israeli-occupied territories. UNRWA has been facing financial problems and has an estimated 1986 income of \$178 million for a budget of \$194 million.

Mr. Giacomelli, making the announcement of the meeting at an information meeting for permanent missions to the United Nations in Vienna, said he was making preparations for the projected meeting in Vienna on May 22 and 23 which, he said, would offer a chance for donor governments to consult each other on how financing for the agency's operations could be maintained.

He said he hoped the delegates would give him advice on how to proceed if funds were insufficient to maintain the agency's normal programme.

Mr. Giacomelli expressed the wish that delegates attending the meeting would be able to speak for their governments in giving guidance to UNRWA. Letters of invitation to governments will be going out shortly and in the meantime Mr. Giacomelli is beginning a round of talks with governments in Europe, North America and the Far East to discuss the proposed meeting, the UNRWA release said.

Among those invited to the May meeting will be representatives of the European Community, members of UNRWA's Advisory Commission and members of the United Nations General Assembly's working group on financing UNRWA.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, paid a visit on Wednesday to the Armed Forces General Headquarters and met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The meeting was attended by the Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleh (Petra photo)

Army personnel receive newly-built houses

AMMAN (Petra) — Newly-built homes for army officers were distributed to beneficiaries at a ceremony held in Amman on Wednesday under the patronage of Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Altogether, 76 homes were distributed by a special committee which drew lots to assign each officer his own home.

The 76 homes were built in the course of carrying out a three-stage programme for providing all officers with homes at a reasonable cost in a number of regions in the Kingdom. Beneficiaries of the second stage of the programme will receive their homes in a few months' time.

The ceremony was attended by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and other senior officers in addition to the beneficiaries and their families.

Arab investment company begins board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Baghdad-based Arab Company for Industrial Investments (ACII) opened its 28th board meeting in Amman on Wednesday to discuss projects it is now implementing in the Arab World and those accomplished in the past year.

The two-day meeting is addressing itself in particular to the cast iron company based in Tunisia and the Arab company for industrial machinery in Morocco.

Also on the agenda is the company's general budget and final accounts for 1985, an annual report and other related topics paving the way for holding an ACII general conference in Baghdad in June.

According to ACII Chairman of the Board Abdul Tawwab Al Malahoush, the company — which has a capital of 150 million Iraqi pounds — is a joint concern of nine Arab states including Jordan. The company undertakes industrial schemes in Arab countries, provides studies on schemes and helps in marketing Arab industrial products.

So far ACII has acquired shares in six Arab companies and three more will be added in 1986. An ACII spokesman said that the company's board is currently contemplating participation in ten new schemes being carried out by several Arab companies.

Department issues more passports in 1985

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Passports Department last year issued a total of 228,459 passports compared with 210,430 in 1984, according to department director Mohammad Al Qudab.

He was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper as saying that his department encourages students to apply for passports now in order to avoid congestion at passport offices during the summer months. In the summer many expatriates on holiday in Jordan apply to renew their passports and others visiting the occupied West Bank also apply for temporary passports making it difficult for the department to handle the flood of applications, he continued.

The passports are now being typed out through a computer instead of writing the names and other particulars by hand, thus saving a lot of time in the process of issuing passports, Mr. Qudab said.

According to Mr. Qudab, his department plans to modernise its filing system which has been in operation since the 1930s, in view of the growing number of files in the department.

Crown Prince expresses concern over poverty level, lack of services in Tafileh region

Prince Hassan suggests comprehensive plan, joint efforts to improve health, housing and social facilities in the south

TAFILEH (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday chaired a meeting in Tafileh to review development projects to be carried out in the Tafileh governorate within the 1986-1990 five year development plan.

Addressing the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, the governor of Ma'an and other officials, Prince Hassan spoke of the need to provide a decent living for the people of Tafileh.

At present more than 1,500 families in the district are living in poverty, and others await direct assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, Prince Hassan pointed out. He said that a comprehensive and detailed survey should be made before taking measures to solve the problem of poverty and that this survey should be conducted with the help of a special team of specialists capable of handling this humanitarian task. This team should direct its attention to finding a means for youth to earn a decent living in agriculture or trade, Prince Hassan said.

In his speech, Prince Hassan said that he was also pained to see improper medical services in the Tafileh district and he said it is necessary for the health authorities to start building a new hospital as soon as possible and that further programmes for mother and child care should be introduced in the region.

Prince Hassan said that a general survey should be conducted prior to introducing real health and social improvements and reforms in the governorate.

On the subject of housing, Prince Hassan urged the authorities to build housing estates provided with all social, health, educational and commercial services and other infrastructure services like water and electricity. Prince Hassan called on various authorities to join forces in implementing housing projects in Tafileh Governorate.

In his speech, Prince Hassan said that the Tafileh Governorate has a special status in the hearts of the Jordanian people due to its

historical importance and its location on the trade and caravan routes, and the routes of the Islamic conquests.

Tafileh Acting Governor Rateb Al Majali also made a speech in which he outlined the major projects which will be carried out in the district within the five-year plan. He said a total of JD 75 million will be spent on social, economic and services projects in the region. Social services will have the lion's share, JD 27.8 million, Mr. Majali said. The area has been divided into 36 administrative units for the sake of distributing the projects.

According to Mr. Majali, the five-year plan entails the exploitation of natural resources, economic potential and tourism and creating job opportunities to increase family income, providing improved social services and a higher standard of living. Special attention will be given to agriculture and new techniques and methods will have to be adopted for improving production, Mr. Majali said.

The Tafileh region has the lowest population growth rate in the Kingdom which means that most of its people tend to migrate to other regions, Mr. Majali added. He said the new plan aims at providing jobs to stem migration.

Mr. Majali said that the Tafileh



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday addresses a meeting in Tafileh

area has an estimated eight million cubic metres of underground water reserves in addition to 14 million cubic metres in the Hassa region as well as natural resources such as phosphates and cement which are being exploited. He said the area has copper, marble and oil shale deposits which have not yet been tapped and has tourist and mineral water attractions that should be exploited to draw revenue for the district's population.

Another speaker at the meeting was Muslim Al Zaghallil, mayor of Tafileh, who outlined his municipality's plan. The projects included in the plan provide for improving social, health and educational and sports facilities, the mayor said. He said that JD 1.3 million have been allocated for building housing units, JD 830,000 will be spent on building a hotel and will spend JD 4.3 million on improving public services.

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Balance breeds justice

THE statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, to the effect that Egypt would do its best to revive Middle East peace-making prospects by securing Palestinian recognition of Israel, reflects better intentions than tactics. If the newspaper accounts of his statements are accurate, it would appear that even with the active help of a dear and important country such as Egypt, there are little chances of initiating a meaningful peace dynamic in the near future. We have heard many times before the thesis that Palestinian acceptance of Israel's existence, or its "right to exist," is a prerequisite for peace talks. We have never subscribed to the theory that unilateral and a priori Palestinian acceptance of Israel's existence and statehood — usually enunciated by the United States and Israel — is the starting point for peace talks, and we do not believe it holds much chance now of unlocking the door to peace.

The essential fact remains that the problem of Palestine is the problem of two people — Zionists and Palestinians — who covet the same land. It is not only, or first of all, the problem of Arab recognition of Israel. For one protagonist to bow to the demands of the other as a pre-requisite for negotiations strikes us as a formula for the kind of false self-delusions that formed the basis, for example, of the "peace" the Americans negotiated in Vietnam. How long did that "peace" last? Perhaps we could be reminded by some testimony from the American embassy officials who fled Saigon by helicopter from the roof of their embassy?

The universal desire to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully must be based on the fact that the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians should be addressed and realised if there is to be a chance for a just and lasting peace. Therefore we do not feel it is appropriate for the Palestinians to be asked to recognise Israel first, as an initial step to unlocking the peace process. At the same time, the Palestinian leadership should be more flexible and daring in probing any opportunities that present themselves for an honourable negotiated peace. The path to peace still lies in securing from the Israelis and the Palestinians mutual and simultaneous recognition of each other's right of national self-determination, security and internationally recognised frontiers. In such balance will be found true justice, real peace, and enough honesty to pass on to future generations.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Dangers to the nation

KING Hussein was careful in his speech to the Arab parliamentarians in Amman Tuesday to name Jordan's basic principles and policies with regard to the Palestine problem, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also pointed out the main dangers which the Arab nation is facing: The Israeli aggression, the Iranian aggression and the separatist movement in southern Sudan. He also pointed to the way which can end Arab weakness and Arab disunity. Above all, the King made it clear that Jordan considers the Palestine question as its major and central issue, and therefore, will go on helping the Palestinians to regain their lost territory and rights in their homeland. But, he said, that Jordan will never act as proxy or substitute for the Palestinians and will never act for them in any way. Jordan, the monarch said, is firmly committed to the resolutions of Arab summit meetings, and is keen on implementing them because it considers them national duties that should not be neglected. With reference to the Gulf war, the King emphasised that Jordan has been supporting Iraq in expression of its national commitments and in implementation of the Arab defence pact despite the failure on the part of other Arab countries to do so. He urged all Arabs to mobilise their efforts and rally behind Iraq to enable it to deal a final defeat to the enemy.

Al Dustour: Calling for unity

THE King's speech to the Arab parliamentary conference in Amman on Tuesday contained a warning to the Arabs against maintaining the present weak position, and a call for those wise among them to take immediate action for protecting Arab interests and rights. King Hussein believes that the Arab nation possesses a great potential that can be exploited for Arab people's interests and for fending off all dangers threatening the Arabs at present and in the future. He pointed in particular to three dangers: "The Israeli occupation and the Iranian aggression in addition to the secessionist movement in southern Sudan. He also referred to the civil war in Lebanon and the Western Sahara conflict, and said that all these form big challenges to the leaders of the Arab nation and threaten their nation's existence. The King pointed out also that these dangers would not have surfaced had the Arabs been united and strong. In view of the dangers, King Hussein stressed, Jordan found it was incumbent on it to take action, and has been extending all possible help to the Palestinian people and bolstering the steadfastness of their kinsmen under occupation rule. Jordan has also been extending aid to Iraq out of a feeling of responsibility and national commitment.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's commitment

IN his address to the Arab parliamentary conference in Amman King Hussein was careful to explain Jordan's firm principles and policies. He said that Jordan cannot serve as a proxy for the Palestinian people and will continue to respect the Rabat and Fez summit resolutions of 1974 and 1982. These are basic and firm policies which cannot be changed or altered. The King said, however, Jordan will continue to extend a helping hand to the Palestinian people and bolster their steadfastness in a manner that would not endanger the country's own security and within its resources and capabilities. The King also brought to the minds of the parliamentarians the fact that the common Israeli enemy continues to act and to move as the Arab nation remains idle and indifferent. He urged the Arabs to be aware of the dangers and make preparations for countering the threats. The King has therefore reminded the Arabs to retain their national identity and protect their national interests. It was a good opportunity for the parliamentarians to hear the warning and the call contained in the King's speech.

View From America

Arab-Americans make deep roots in the U.S.

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Maybe in this time of political turbulence in the Middle East, a few simple observations about Palestinians and Arabs, from far away, may be of some interest to readers. I would like to talk about their visibility and influence in the United States.

Let me begin with the neighbourhood in which I live. It is an area of small houses in a part of San Francisco which is close to the Pacific Ocean. People who live here have families. More recently those families have become "bigger." That is because of new immigrants, primarily from East Asia, but also because more Arabs are arriving.

I can see the growing Arab presence because more and more signs in Arabic are appearing. In fact, other than English, Chinese and Arabic are the only two foreign writings one sees in this neighbourhood. Ten years ago when my family arrived in this

neighbourhood, there was little in the way of a Chinese presence and none that was Arab. Now that has changed. There are two stores which specialise in Arab language videos. There are Arab restaurants which feature the usual kubba, shawarma, ka'k'al-Quds. But what is not usual is that gradually these dishes are becoming popular with Americans. Even Chinese, known for their love of good food, can be seen enjoying the humus!

But perhaps more interesting to Middle Eastern readers is the fact that, slowly, Arab publications, are beginning to appear for public sale. And I am struck by how many more places have a sign, only in Arabic, saying:

من تايغ الشرق الاوسط. The Sharq al-Ausut seems to be becoming the leading source of Arabic language news in the United States. Even with my

slow (but improving) reading of Arabic, I pick up copies every week or two and go over it, along with Al Rai and An-Nahar.

Why should this be of any interest beyond showing that there are more and more Arab people in the San Francisco Bay region? To me it shows the strength and resiliency of Arab people. Most who come to the United States are not rich. Some are quite poor. But like the Chinese, they work extremely hard. They have an ability to remain friendly even when met with hostility. Unlike our Russian population which remains quietly in the shadows, our Arab cousins come out into the open. Not far from where we live there is a theatre which on occasion shows Arab-language films. The theatre is owned and managed by a Jew. That too shows that despite the power of Zionism, many Jews show their traditional fri-

endliness to Arabs whose language is closely related to their own language.

But the growing public presence of Arabs in my city which pleases me a great deal is not just an isolated phenomenon. Throughout the United States, Arab-Americans are beginning to stand up and protest, angrily, at the indignities that they have been suffering from hostile media, politicians humbling themselves before pro-Israel forces, and even from a general population that has been mis-educated to think that Arabs are either rich or terrorists. I remember a piece in this newspaper from January 25 where the writer sadly asks: "Has the image of Palestinians to the world become one connected with killing, destruction, terror?" Yes, unfortunately, that image has been implanted on world opinion, yet Arabs in this country are struggling against it... and with

more and more success.

A young man who too writes for this newspaper, James Zogby, must be given credit for playing so important a role in this struggle. And the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination League, directly modelled after a similar one founded many years ago by Jews has been fighting against scurrilous distortions of Arab realities, history, and especially people, so common in the American media.

Arabs in America come from many lands. Many are Palestinian and Lebanese. But there are growing numbers of Egyptians, Yemenis, and even Sudanese. I was struck the other day when my family and I ate in an Arab restaurant and a black man speaking flawless Arabic came in and began to enjoy an Arab meal. A very close friend of mine is a Christian Sudanese from the South. I envy his equally flawless Arabic. And, of course,

things Arabic are popular among American blacks, many of whom have become Muslim.

All of these people feel a sense of kinship with the Arab Middle East. Their sentiments are not reflected in the American media caught in their warped anti-Arab prejudices. Much of it comes from non-Jews who stupidly think they are pleasing their Jewish clientele when they cast slurs at Arabs. But I say to people who might read these words that despite the distorted images, there is growing friendliness here, far away from you, for you as a people and nations and cultures.

Perhaps the kind of Arab and Muslim and friendly solidarity with the Middle East we see increasingly in this country may also be an example to the quarrelling factions over there. Are not words like اتحاد, توحيد, وحدة so important in the Arabic language?

Terrorism: From Rambo to Mr. Shultz

By Salameh Ne'matt

TERRORISM is fast becoming the norm of the atomic age. It has made every single one of us a potential victim.

Oppression and injustice, which are cited as the main causes of terrorism, have existed for millennia. Why, then this scourge of international terrorism in our time?

Modern technology and its proliferation, experts say, have provided the physical elements of contemporary terrorism: the aeroplane, the compact but formidable hand-held weapon, remote control electronic bombs, the immediacy of electronic news broadcasting. When terrorists put these elements together, they have the world's attention.

From America to Europe to the Middle East to Africa, terrorism knows no boundaries and nobody is being nice.

political terrorism — serial murders, gang wars and so forth — what can be done with the political terrorist, who is far more obdurate?

The politicians and pundits who counsel retribution surrender to sentiments that can only yield further violence. As professor Eghal Ahmad of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington put it: "Experience of violence by a stronger party has historically turned victims into terrorists. Battered children often become abusive parents. On a larger scale, state terror often breeds private terror."

The more serious examples are set by governments. When practised and supported by powerful states, terrorism is legitimised as an instrument of attaining political objectives. Today, those who con-

at widening the revolutionaries' popular support by freeing their potential constituencies from the constraints of oppressive power.

One important element has been conspicuously absent from discussions of terrorism in America and the appropriate response to it: a definition of terrorism.

At first glance, it may seem like an absurd point. But there is some disagreement on which specific acts are terrorist acts. And some politicians obviously prefer a floating definition. So an act is "terrorism" if it was committed by their "enemies," but not when carried out by their "friends."

That is obvious hypocrisy. Denouncing some acts of terrorism but tacitly condoning others undermines moral authority, which is the only real source of influence in many parts of the world.

A coherent policy on terrorism cannot be formulated if there is no solid definition of terrorism. And since the Americans expect their policy to be the standard for the world, by constantly changing definitions, they are inviting their own policy to be thrown back in their face.

Sure, there are incidents that most people agree are terrorist acts. But is it always that simple? Is a military action against a military target a terrorist act? In common usage, it hasn't been, but most American commentators and politicians refer to the bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut as terrorism. If the Afghan resistance blew up a Red Army barracks in Kabul, would these same commentators and politicians call it terrorism?

One important element has been conspicuously absent from discussions of terrorism in America and the appropriate response to it: a definition of terrorism.

That is the type of question the U.S. has to deal with in defining terrorism. And it seems as though every situation has a mirror image. Our attention has been drawn to different parts in the Middle East, Central America and Europe. But there are similar situations in such

places as Laos, South Africa and Ethiopia.

Few countries, with Iran and Iraq being the prime example, are involved in a conventional war. With conventional war, we have defined acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. So let's view few examples from the modern age.

Is national resistance to an invading or occupying army terrorism? What if the army kills civilians when the obvious targets were guerrillas? What if the guerrillas kill civilians when the obvious targets are soldiers? What if the army attacks civilian areas? First, assume there is a battle going on, and the invading army is taking fire from a civilian area. Is it terrorism? Then assume there are no combatants in the area, but it is known as a hotbed of sympathy for the resistance. Does it make a difference?

What about destruction of property? Is it terrorism to randomly destroy civilian homes because most of the people in the area oppose the occupation? What if the homes are selectively destroyed, with only the homes of relatives of resistance fighters being destroyed? What if they are the homes of "suspected" political activists?

What about the imprisonment of civilians who are suspected of supporting the resistance?

Do civilians become legitimate targets when armed groups take up positions interspersed with the civilian population? Let's assume that they don't. Now, assume that civilians are deliberately moved in with occupation troops. Do they become legitimate targets of the

under its control. Is random retaliation acceptable to force the neighbouring government to crack down on the guerrillas?

What about an army which is invited into a country engaged in a civil war? If it sides with one side in the civil war, does it become a legitimate target of the other side? Are civilians in a civil war legitimate targets if they politically back one side? What if they give material support? Can either side imprison political opponents who are not militant opponents?

Is an act that would normally be considered "terrorism" is not so labelled if it is in retaliation to a terrorist act?

This is just a quick overview, but it gives an idea of the kinds of decisions that have to be made. Some of them (like the last one) can spark intense debate. The U.S. conveniently sidesteps this issue for reasons obvious at least for us in this part of the world.

A coherent policy on terrorism cannot be formulated if there is no solid definition of terrorism. And since the Americans expect their policy to be the standard for the world, by constantly changing definitions, they are inviting their own policy to be thrown back in their face.

policy towards terrorism that does not involve the U.S. should be uniform. However, we see that while the U.S. recognises two equivalent acts of terrorism, it loudly screams about one but downplays the other. Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories offer a good example of American double standards. U.S. administration officials say that they always "complain" to Israel whenever it violates human rights and the Geneva Convention. But somehow, most Americans, Lebanese and Palestinians are never aware of this "complaining." What we do hear is the U.S. vetoing intentionally mild United Nations draft resolutions about Israel's atrocities in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

What does the U.S. think it should do if a government like Israel engages in acts of terrorism? Low-key, dutch uncle responses?

obliquely and through third parties, despite its repeated denials.

The policy of absolutely refusing to deal with terrorists almost always backfires. Groups at war tend to commit atrocities against each other. If we say, "nobody has to deal with terrorists," does that make it too easy for different groups to denounce their enemies as terrorists and refuse to negotiate and make peace with them?

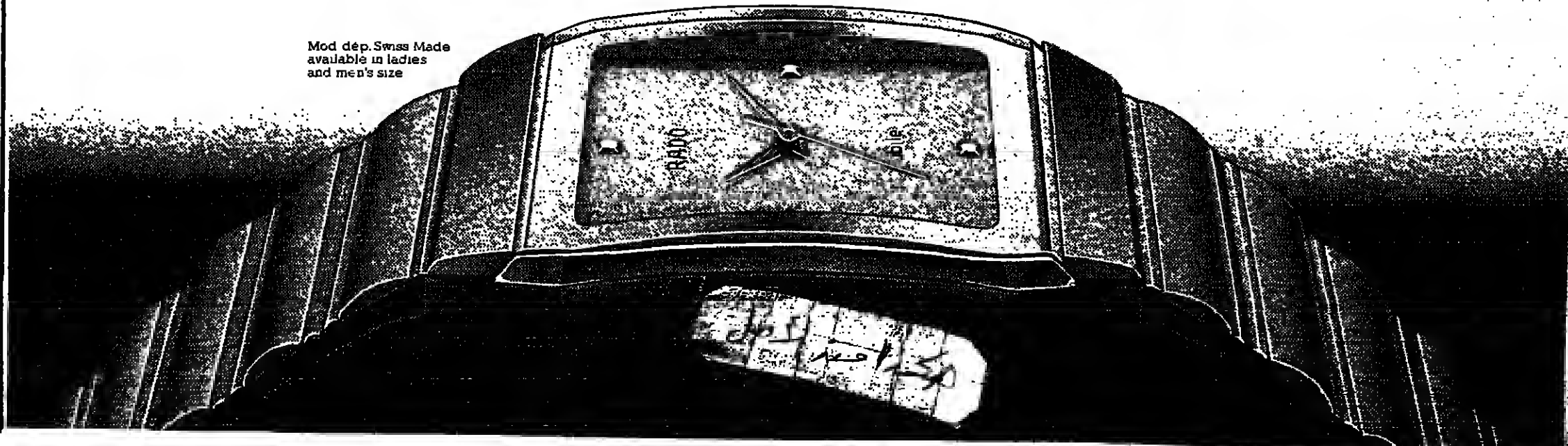
These are subjects that need a strong, and thoughtful public debate by the world community.

The U.S., which considers itself to be the standard for the whole world, thinks that establishing a policy on terrorism means letting everybody know they will seek an eye for a tooth. That isn't policy; it's escalation. This is the cowboy and Rambo mentality promoted in American films. I think that we, in this part of the world, can make do without this policy.

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Media, literature play major roles in stereotyping of Arab women

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

MASS media and literature have played an extensive role in perpetuating and disseminating traditional stereotyping of women. The stereotyping is present in movies, on television, read in textbooks and children literature, and heard over the radio.

Suha Abdel Kader in her paper "The Image of Women in Drama and Women's Programmes in Egyptian Television" noted that given the commercial nature of the mass media, it cannot, by definition, be the initiator of change, but rather the encourager and preserver of the status quo. Aiming to sell their products (images, ideas, and values) to as wide an audience as possible, the different media outlets attempt to please a large number of different people. This means avoiding anything that would offend effective segments of the audience. Here lies the mass media's reliance on stereotypes. This is particularly true for an area as sensitive as the status of women in society or man-woman relations, said Kader.

Egyptian movies are extremely popular all over the Arab World. A closer look at them shows that they are in many ways reflective of the traditional sexual divisions of labour and sex-role definitions present in Arab societies.

This was revealed in Kader's analysis of the female dramatic characters as compared to the male dramatic characters. In terms of age and marital status, Kader found that female characters are depicted as young, usually in their twenties, physically attractive, over-dressed, and over made-up. Females are identified mainly by their affiliation to the men in their lives. Male characters, on the other

hand, are depicted as older, in their thirties or above, and are identified primarily by their professional or occupational status, and only to a lower degree by their relationship to women.

In the depiction of occupational status, Kader found that there was a clear preference for featuring only single women, rather than married, divorced, or widowed women. 80 per cent of the single women are portrayed as working, while only 30 per cent of the married women, and 15 per cent of the divorced and widowed are featured as employed.

Kader also noted that the working women characters tend to be concentrated in traditional female fields such as secretaries, domestic servants, nurses, school teachers, and actresses, singers, and belly-dancers.

These characteristics are derived from traditionalism. According to traditional thinking, Kader explained that youth and beauty are a woman's major assets; marriage and motherhood are her legitimate and ultimate goals in life; and single women work, but only until they get married.

The adoption of traditional attitudes towards women by Egyptian drama is even more clearly demonstrated by the analysis of personality traits of both females and male dramatic characters. In this respect, stereotyping is quite evident, said Kader. Whether as wives, daughters, lovers, or professionals, women are always portrayed as more morally "good" than men. As wives they are the stabilising forces within the family. As daughters, they are more loving, more obedient, and more supportive emotionally and financially of their parents than are the sons. As women in love, they are serious and dedicated, considering marriage the only legitimate and justifiable aim of rom-

antic involvements. And as employed members of society, they are more responsible, efficient, and infinitely more honest than men.

By contrast, men are unreliable husbands, ungrateful sons, and flirtatious husbands. Even at work, their behaviour is flighty, irresponsible, sometimes bordering on the criminal, said Kader.

The depiction of women as the upholders of morality in society is in many ways traditional. It puts women on a pedestal and encourages martyrdom, suffering and forbearance on their part, noted Kader. As the "conscience" of the men in their lives, the whole responsibility of morality, principles and correct behaviour falls on their shoulders.

However, in Mona Al Hadeedy (of the Cairo University) examination of 410 Egyptian films shown between 1962-72, she concluded that the majority of the films were transmitting the message: a woman must remain a man's vessel in order to survive morally as well as physically. She noted that as soon as the hero stepped out of sight, the women were so helpless that they immediately fell into the hands of villains or wandered into prostitution and belly dancing to earn a living. Career women and students did not escape the stereotyping. Their worthy activities were seen to be new opportunities for meeting men. Hadeedy found that divorcees in films almost always fell into sexually degrading means of livelihood.

Hadeedy does not object to women being portrayed as mostly housewives because that is what most Arab women are. However, she strongly objects to the m being depicted in movies as illogical and incapable of self-sufficiency outside their small domestic sphere, unable to attain their dignity except in the service of their menfolk.

These values are carried over to television, though without the sexual titillation favoured in the film industry, stated Hadeedy. Women are usually housewives in soap operas, and are rarely cast as professionals except as teachers or nurses in charge of young children.

Mrs. Asma Khader, a lawyer in a private practice, commented that the television programmes stress woman's place in the home. Usually a film which depicts a working mother, does so in order to show how "this working mother" is responsible for social problems such as divorce, said Khader.

As sociologist Magaly Pineda wrote in "Telenovelas: Just entertainment?" dramas depict as "evil" in women the same characteristics that are depicted as "good" in men. Qualities such as decisiveness, forcefulness, independence, and tenacity are portrayed as "bad" in women. This is propagated by the notion of rewards and punishment: if a woman "behaves badly" i.e. in a dominant manner, she is punished by being abandoned, unloved and foregone, stated Pineda.

Woman programmes on the radio also adopt a traditional attitude towards women, stated Khader. This is evident by their over-emphasis on items related to household management, childcare, and beauty. For example the programme on the Jordanian radio "The Family" discusses domestic issues such as cooking, upbringing, and beauty. Implicit in its message is that if something happens to the child, it is the mother's fault, she said.

A review of literature relative to society's expectations with respect to Arab women's roles was done by Irene Loring and Julinda Abu Nasser.

In their "Review of the Young

Arab women's Situation", the following expectations were found with respect to the roles of women in society.

— Arab women's status in the family and community is derived from marriage and motherhood. Adolescent girls are non-existent. — Social status and self-actualisation are achieved through the scrupulous performance of their roles as mothers, wives and daughters.

— Their sphere of action is restricted to the domestic area. They do not participate in community affairs.

— The very few who enter employment do so because of pressing economic needs and are found in jobs related to their domestic functions. Their responsibilities are limited and do not require any major decisions. Working women are depicted as marginal, while "normal" women depend on men for economic support.

The results of the study also revealed the importance of a woman's maternal role. The mother is the most common figure in books, and she is usually found in the kitchen. If she is depicted as a working mother, it is only in the traditional roles of secretary, waitress, nurse, or school teacher. The attitude that boys would be the breadwinners and the head of the family, while girls would be helpmates was also evident.

Many families still read to their children the traditional fairy tales. Even the characters in these old tales propagate the typical social values which society upholds. The women are portrayed as passive, inarticulate women who are only concerned with their own beauty, and the male figures are active, strong, courageous, loyal and intelligent.

Italian writer Elena Giannini Belotti showed some examples in

her book "Little Girls." In Snow White, roles of male and female appear. As the seven dwarfs go to work, Snow White cleans the house, mends their clothes, sweeps and cooks, and waits for their return. The only quality she is recognised to have is her beauty. When she gets into trouble a man must intervene to get her out of the trouble, and then Prince Charming marries her accordingly.

Cinderella, another favourite, is the prototype of domestic virtues, humility, patience, servility, and under-developed conscience, stated Ms. Belotti. Cinderella does not move a finger to get out of an intolerable situation, swallows humiliation and oppression, and has neither the dignity nor courage. The female virtue of undergoing any amount of ill-treatment without rebelling has survived also in fairy tales.

Female figures in fairytales belong to two fundamentally different categories: the good but useless, and the wicked. If a woman is not presented as completely passive and inept, her character is distorted to the point of making her a witch. Even the good fairies do not use their resources, but a magic power, which has been conferred on them and it is the power which does good.

In general the mass media portrayal of women is a reflection of the secondary and inferior role they play in society, said Dr. Serri Nasser, a sociologist at the University of Jordan. A female is without a separate distinct identity. She is seen through the males; the daughter, the wife, or the mother of so and so. Dr. Nasser noted that it has been found that women are only seen as good if they obey their menfolk. And because they are often used as sacrificial objects, this seems to indicate that a female is dispensable.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Long distance

DO YOU know that if you dial a number, for example, Paris, and found it busy, then try once more, and a third time with no success, the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) computer will still charge you a full 3-minute call to Paris, one minute per trial?

Hard to believe, isn't it? But this is what I learned, in strict confidence, from a reliable TCC source.

This measure, unheard of in any part of the world, is justified at the TCC by the fact that every time you dial an out-of-the-country number you are "occupying" the international line. Every time you do this a one minute "call" to that country is stored against your bill. Every three trials are later summed up and made into one call, something that one would hardly notice if he or she is in regular contact with that number.

I also learned that a special committee at the TCC has recently recommended that this practice be terminated. However, top officials at the corporation rebuffed the recommendation. So it seems we don't only get bills to the Maldives Islands, the Comoros or Uruguay when we don't know anybody there, we also have to pay for attempted calls to friends or business associates even if we do not get through with those calls.

What will be the next step of the TCC? Maybe a lump sum to be paid monthly by subscribers just because they just own a telephone line.

APU resolutions cover Gulf war, Palestinian issue

(Continued from page 1)

calm, diplomatic and thoughtful atmosphere after the committee's chairman, Rizk Al Bataineh, requested its members to maintain a "positive dialogue."

The committee's afternoon session endorsed four resolutions pertaining to the current political situation in the Arab World and means of resistance, the U.S. and Zionist intimidation of Arab countries, the situation in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and the recent Iranian offensive in the Gulf war.

The resolution on the Golan Heights, presented by Syria, pledged total support to the Syrian government's resistance to "Zionist-imperialist threats and hegemony against Syrian soil." It said that any aggression on Syria is an attack on the Arab Nation. The resolution also praised the heroic stands of the Syrian people's resistance in the Golan Heights against the Zionists. The draft resolution was passed unanimously after Iraq requested that the term "the Syrian government" in the document should be changed to "the Syrian state."

Another Syrian draft resolution on "American and Zionist intimidation on the Arab World" was endorsed, incorporating an Iraqi request that the 1981 Israeli air raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor be denounced and an Algerian request that the U.S. stand towards Libya be condemned.

The resolution said that the U.S. administration and the Israeli government were increasing their violation on all international rights and escalating threats against all Arab countries in general, and Syria and Libya in particular. Referring to the February, 1986, hijacking of a Libyan plane by the Israeli air force, the resolution also called on the international community to take necessary measures to put an end to "acts of piracy which threaten peace and security in the world and contradict the simplest human rights."

The resolution on the current political status of the Arab World and means of resistance was passed after some of its phrasing and content were amended. The Lebanese, Kuwaiti and Moroccan delegations, opposed the resolution saying that its content contradicted the current situation in the Arab World.

The resolution said fighting and resisting the enemy was the only means available to counter the Zionist and American aggression on the Arab World. It denounced any partial or separate peace pact with the Zionist state and called for a strategic balance in the Arab World to outweigh and confront the Zionist enemy as well as a strong Arab condemnation of U.S. policies. It also called on Arab governments to increase their support to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to back the Egyptian people's struggle to abandon the 1979 Camp David treaty with Israel. The resolution also called for the implementation of economic resolutions which were taken during

the 1980 Arab summit in Amman.

The first to launch criticism on the resolution was Mr. Mahmoud Ammar, head of Lebanon's delegation to the conference. Mr. Ammar said such resolutions "were too good to be true."

"I hate to endorse this resolution because it will destroy our credibility," he said.

All previous Arab resolutions were shelved and "remain ink-on-paper," Mr. Ammar said, adding that Lebanon's abstention from voting on Wednesday's resolution "shall be recorded for history."

Mr. Mahmoud Alami, member of the Moroccan delegation, described the contents of the resolution as "unstable and dependent."

"We need to adopt free and factual resolutions free from superpower influence," Mr. Alami said.

The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, voiced his country's support for the Lebanese and Moroccan stands saying that the resolution "clashed with the current situation of the Arab World." But Mr. Saadoun noted that accepting them might be a positive step in committing the Arab countries to realise these resolutions.

Mr. Saadoun suggested that an APU follow-up team be set up to implement all resolutions that have been stated in the Syrian draft. The session approved Syria's proposals and the Kuwait suggestion. Accordingly a four-member committee was set up under the chairmanship of Aket Al Fayez.

The Iraqi resolution, which called for an end to the Iranian aggression on Iraq and Iranian troop withdrawal to the international borders, was approved unanimously. The resolution also called for direct and indirect negotiations to secure a just and durable solution to the Gulf war guaranteeing the rights of both parties and non-intervention by either party in domestic affairs of the other.

The committee's deliberations over a draft resolution submitted by the PNC were protracted and highlighted the differences between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria.

Prior to the discussion of the Palestinian paper, the Syrian representative announced that Syria had also drafted a separate paper on the Palestinian question. But the Iraqi representative strongly objected saying that the position paper on the Palestinian question should be presented by the Palestinian delegation and not by any other delegation.

After a brief discussion in which the Jordanian and Somali representatives participated the committee decided to consider the Palestinian position paper as the basic paper but welcomed any Syrian or other suggestions to amend it.

The Palestinian paper reiterated commitment to all resolutions adopted by consecutive PNC sessions and all Arab summits, particularly the Rahat summit of 1974, the Baghdad summit

of 1978 and the Fez summit of 1982.

One of the Syrian representatives again protested on specifying the three Arab summits and suggested that the paper should have confined itself to a general commitment to all Arab summit resolutions.

The Palestinian delegation, supported by the Iraqi delegation, strongly argued that the three summits which were referred to in the Palestinian paper "marked three turning points in the history of the Palestinian question which should be highlighted."

But the Syrian representative pointed out that some Arab countries had boycotted a number of Arab summits and therefore if the Palestinians insisted to underscore certain summit resolutions their papers should also mention that the referred Arab summits which did not reflect an Arab consensus, Syria had reservations over the issue, he said.

The Palestinian paper also rejected all "capitulatory settlements which do not guarantee a minimum level of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as were outlined in the Fez summit plan."

But the Syrian delegation said the world "capitulatory" should be dropped "since it is clear that capitulatory settlements could never guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Kuwait backed the Syrian proposal and suggested that "the Fez summit plan should not be considered the minimum peace plan that could be accepted by the Arab masses." He explained that the Fez plan was endorsed by the Arab governments and that "as representatives of the Arab Nation, parliamentarians should leave it open for the Arab masses to reject or accept any peace proposals."

Both the Syrian and Kuwaiti proposals were endorsed by the committee and were particularly welcomed by the Palestinian and Iraqi delegations.

The paper called for "a constructive coordination between the Arab brethren and the PLO in efforts to convene an international peace conference in which the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all the parties involved, including the PLO, would participate. The international conference will aim at achieving a comprehensive peace for the Palestinian question which guarantees the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

But the Syrian delegation argued that this article was a repetition of the one which reiterated commitment to the Fez summit resolutions and there was no need "for such details as to who would participate."

The Syrian suggestion provoked a debate over whether the Arab parliamentarians should commit themselves to the peace option "while Israel has not changed its position vis-a-vis Palestinian rights or to keep the options open for the Arab masses to decide." The main speaker in that debate

and who played an instrumental role in securing the committee's support for the omission of the phrase was Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Ahmad Saadoun.

The Kuwaiti speaker's argument was that an international peace conference would mean direct negotiations with the "Zionist entity." He pointed out that the Khartoum Arab summit in 1967 had pledged to the Arab masses not to negotiate, recognise or make peace with Israel "until all of the Palestinian rights were restored."

He said he was not against the political and diplomatic struggle but that the "Arab parliamentarians, as the representatives of the Arab Nation, should reserve their right to object to any peaceful move that would not fully satisfy the Palestinian national goals."

"We should not commit ourselves as representatives of the people to any definite peace formula but at the same time we will not close the doors for any Arab country to find a comprehensive political solution for the Palestinian problem," he said. "But we shall never accept a phoney international peace conference."

Mr. Saadoun added that the peaceful option was not the only option since many Arab people still believe in armed struggle as the means to restore the usurped Arab territories.

"It is only natural and healthy that there should be two trends in the Arab world: the first which believes in political means and the second which believes in armed struggle," he said.

The committee agreed to omit the article without any objection from the Jordanian or Palestinian delegations.

But later during the session, and after the Palestinian paper was already approved with the suggested amendments, Jordanian Senator Walid Salah, who did not attend the earlier discussion, strongly protested the omission.

He said that he was outside during the discussion but asked for debate on the subject again.

The other participants refused to budge.

PNC Speaker Sbeikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh, who was also absent during the discussion, came in at a later point and expressed his disagreement to dropping the reference to an international conference. But he said he perfectly understood that it was too late to protest against the decision but that the Palestinians would raise the issue at the full APU session in the evening.

"But the participants have to understand that this article was extremely important since it called for an effective international conference, that is one with ruling powers, while the international conference that has been talked about (by the Americans) is powerless," he said.

The conference committee for dialogue and parliamentary affairs met Wednesday morning and issued a series of recommendations pertaining to cooperation between Arab parliaments and for-

ign parliaments.

The committee, which was presided by Jordanian Deputy Musal Abu Al Ragheh, discussed parliamentary relations between the APU and the legislative bodies of the African, Socialist, Latin American and Asian countries.

The committee also discussed the ongoing Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue.

The committee recommended that the APU should have its future relations and dialogue with other parliaments on studies prepared by political experts who should be hired by the APU as consultants on inter-parliamentary dialogue.

The committee also recommended that the APU should be considerate and aware of the problems and issues which are of vital interest to parliaments with which it enjoys good relations.

A statement formulated by the committee also explained that the APU should pay attention to international problems which concern other nations and the international community such as peace movements, disarmament, national liberation movements and causes and other issues which are directly related to international peace and progress.

The statement also noted that African and European parliamentarians, in general, tend to avoid discussing political issues and focus on economic issues. Therefore, the statement said, the APU should seek to give equal attention to political, social and economic issues since they were all interrelated issues with a focus on Third World debts and on relations between the developed and lesser developed countries and the need to establish balanced international economic relations.

The committee also studied the strongly-worded Iraqi paper which included a harsh denunciation of the recent Iranian invasion and its occupation of territories in southern Iraq and the threat that Iran was posing to other Gulf countries particularly Kuwait. The Iraqi paper reiterated Iraq's commitment to seek an end to the five-and-a-half-year old war with Iran through negotiations.

Syria, which supports Iran, strongly objected to the Iraqi proposal and called for dropping any condemnation of Iran "since such statements would not help. On the country, it would hinder mediation efforts between the two sides."

Both the Syrian and Iraqi delegations then engaged in a strong argument over Syria's support for Iran and the committee's chairman intervened to put an end to the argument.

The Iraqi position was strongly backed by the Palestinian, Somali and Moroccan delegations while the Algerian, South Yemeni and Lebanese delegations supported Syria.

Mr. Saadoun, who was not present at the beginning of the argument, later interceded in favour of the Iraqi proposal pointing out the threat that the recent Iranian offensive has constituted to the

WHO SPENDS WHAT ON WELFARE



The main headings of any government's expenditure are Defense, Education, Health, Economic services and Welfare (including housing, amenities and social security). The following listing of selected countries shows the amount each nation spent in 1982 on Welfare services as a percentage of total government expenditure.

Country	Welfare spending (% of total)	Economic ranking, average spending
Spain	62.3	Industrial market, 40.4%
Sweden	50.4	Industrial market, 40.4%
United States	36.1	Industrial market, 40.4%
Australia	29.8	Industrial market, 40.4%
Jordan	17.4	Upper middle-income, 21.0%
Kuwait	14.3	High-income oil exporter, 9.1%
Syria	11.4	Upper middle-income, 21.0%
Malaysia	10.5	Upper middle-income, 21.0%
Singapore	8.2	Upper middle-income, 21.0%
Morocco	6.9	Lower middle-income, 6.8%
Pakistan	6.8	Low-income, 5.0%
India	4.3	Low-income, 5.0%
U.A.E.	3.7	High-income oil exporter, 9.1%
Tanzania	2.4	Low-income, 5.0%
Kenya	0.8	Low-income, 5.0%

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Navratilova may return to Prague for tennis match

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova, who defected from Czechoslovakia 11 years ago, has accepted an invitation from U.S. tennis officials to play in this summer's Federation Cup in her homeland, a spokesman for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) said Wednesday.

In a dispatch from Dallas, where Navratilova is playing in a Virginia Slims tournament, the London Daily Telegraph said in Wednesday's edition the world's top-ranked women's player still must obtain a visa to enter Czechoslovakia.

"She has been invited to be in our team and has accepted," the Daily Telegraph quoted an unidentified official of the U.S. Tennis Association as saying. "Although it does not necessarily mean that the matter stops here."

Joanna Cella, women's tennis director of the USTA, said the organization has not yet applied for any visas, including Navratilova, for the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup. It is scheduled to be held July 21-24.

Hunter Delatour, former president of the USTA and chairman

of the International Tennis Federation's Federation Cup committee, said officials are banking on Prague honouring earlier promises to grant visas to all players selected by their national groups.

In Prague, a source who asked not to be identified said Navratilova "will definitely not have a visa problem. In fact, she is expected to come."

Navratilova, who defected in 1975 and became a United States citizen in 1981, said fan reaction to her return to Prague "will be hard to predict. I've played it through in my mind many times. For the most part, I think it will be good."

Last spring, Navratilova said, she was denied a visa to return to Prague "just to go back and get over the shock of being away for 10 years."

Asked if Navratilova had been

invited to attend the Federation Cup competition, Jan Kodes, a Czechoslovak Tennis Association official, earlier told the Associated Press by telephone. "How could she be invited when the United States has not yet entered for the cup competition."

"The deadline is April 12 for the teams. After that, they will have to announce the lineups," Kodes said. He added organisers would take notice of her nomination when it was made by the Americans.

It has long been rumoured here that Navratilova might play at the newly rebuilt tennis complex at Prague-Stivanice, of which Kodes is now in charge.

Although her defection at age 19 was not politically motivated, she and her triumphs abroad were ignored for a long time in Czechoslovak sports pages. Even now, she is only briefly mentioned.

Other Czech tennis players that rose to stardom later, such as Hana Mandlikova and Ivan Lendl, were handled much more gently by authorities, which go out of their way to provide no pretext for a defection.

Cameroun keeper aims to be the best

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Almost four years after rising to stardom in the World Cup finals, Thomas Nkono of Cameroun says he still has a long way to go to fulfill his dream of a place among the world's greatest goalkeepers.

"Barring serious injuries, I think I still have many years between the posts. I would like to be recognised as among the world's best by then," Nkono, 30, told Reuters.

After hitting the highspots in the 1982 World Cup finals in

Spain, Nkono was signed by the Barcelona club Espanol.

Some people already rate him among the greats. French goalkeeper Joel Bats puts him in a class with West Germany's Toni Schumacher and Dassié of the Soviet Union.

Cameroun coach Claude Le Roy agrees. "He is fantastic. There is rarely a goalkeeper in the world who is as huge as Nkono and yet has his speed and reflexes," he said.

Nkono, voted Africa's Goalkeeper of the Year in 1979 and 1982, said "work and sacrifice" were behind his rise.

He spoke in this port city, where Cameroun is defending its African Nations Cup title in Group B matches against Zambia and World Cup finalists Morocco and Algeria.

"He is the boss of defence. He gives orders to defenders and they obey him and take his advice," said Le Roy, a former French professional who has coached Cameroun for 10 months. "Unlike many keepers, Nkono has a feel for attack," he added.

Against Zambia on Saturday, Nkono put French-based striker Roger Milla in the clear with a kick that left Milla with nothing more to do than stab in a goal.

Nkono said his contract with Barcelona expires this year but he wants to remain.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Watford earns draw with Liverpool

LONDON (R) — A superb display by goalkeeper Tony Coton earned Watford an unexpected goalless draw against Liverpool in their English Football Association (F.A.) Cup quarter-final Tuesday night. Watford, beaten finalists in 1984, had lost on all nine previous visits to the city, at either Anfield or Everton's Goodison Park home, but Coton gave them a second chance of a semifinal place against Southampton in Monday's replay. Coton saved brilliantly from Ian Rush, twice, Kenny Dalglish, Mark Lawrenson and Jim Beglin, and on the one occasion he was beaten Steve Terry was on hand to clear. At the other end Bruce Grobbelaar was rarely tested but he had to pull off a flying save from England winger John Barnes early on.

Two Swedes suspended for drug use

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish discus throwers Goran Svensson and Lars Sundin have been suspended after positive dope tests. The Swedish Amateur Athletic Association said Wednesday. The Association said Svensson and Sundin were found to have illegally high amounts of the male sex hormone testosterone in their blood but both denied having taken tablets or injected the hormone. The said they had eaten a Chinese herb extract which they had bought in health food stores in the United States.

Whitbread yacht reaches Uruguay

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (AP) — The Swiss yacht UBS Switzerland arrived in this South Atlantic resort city Tuesday, the first of 14 craft to complete the third stage of the Whitbread Round The World Regatta. The Swiss boat entered port at 9:15 a.m. (12:15 GMT), race officials said, and was expected to be followed later in the day by Atlantic Privateer of the United States, Cote D'Or of Belgium, and Drum of Great Britain, all of which were reported some 200 nautical miles south of Punta Del Este early Tuesday. Leading the race in terms of corrected time, based on size and sail displacement, was Equity and Law of Holland, still 1,190 kilometres out of port.

Bruno to get his chance

LAS VEGAS (R) — British heavyweight Frank Bruno said Tuesday night he was delighted that he had been given the chance to fight for the World Boxing Association (WBA) title within six months.

"It's just wonderful, a dream come true," Bruno said when told he was guaranteed a fight against either Tim Witherspoon or Tony Tubbs, both of the United States. "I promise everyone I'll do everything I can to bring the championship home at last."

Witherspoon was fined \$25,000 and stripped of his title by the

WBA Tuesday as the result of a positive drug test after his points win over Tubbs in January.

The WBA ordered a rematch between Tubbs and Witherspoon in 90 days and a fight between the winner and Bruno in 90 additional days.

Promoter Mickey Duff said the fight would take place outdoors in Wembley Stadium in September or indoors somewhere in London in October.

Bruno, who has lost only once in 32 fights, earned his chance at the title by knocking out former world champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa last week.

Ivory Coast faces uphill struggle

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

CAIRO — Senegal and Ivory Coast clash here Thursday in a crucial match likely to decide which two of the four Group A teams play in the semi-finals of the African Nations' Football Cup next Monday.

Senegal, with victories against Egypt and Mozambique under their belt, are in the strongest position, while ambitious Ivory Coast are under threat from a newly confident Egypt.

Ivory Coast and Egypt stand together in the middle of the group table with two points apiece and just one goal giving the Ivorians a marginal advantage.

In the last game of the round-robin stage for this group, however, Egypt Thursday play Mozambique, whose 0-3 and 0-2 defeats by Ivory Coast and Senegal suggest the host team will have little trouble picking up the goals they need to qualify.

Senegalese delegation chief Malick Ndaw told Reuters Wednesday his squad would play to win, although a draw would be enough to guarantee them a berth in the next round.

The Senegalese team, now des-

cribed as the surprise of the tournament because of their long absence from continental championships, have so far played a deceptively cautious game appreciated by experts if not by the Cairo crowd.

"Up till now our only concern has been to reach the semi-finals. Once we've done that, you'll be seeing a very different kind of football," Ndaw said.

In the last clash between the two West African teams, a regional cup match last December, Senegal won 2-0.

Ivory Coast Wednesday kept silent about their battle plan for what Franco-Argentine coach Pancho Gonzalez described as the big day. Commentators said they should be working out how to revitalise their forward line, which ran into trouble against Egypt's defence on Monday.

In that match strikers Pascal Kouassi N'dri and Abdoulaye Traore of French club Metz seemed to have forgotten the nimble footwork and lightning dashes that earned them three goals against Mozambique.

Egypt won the game 2-0, thanks largely to the inclusion of fulltime wingers in an amended line-up long recommended by critics of

their British manager Mike Smith. Egyptian trainer Mohammad Al Sayyed Sadek told Reuters the line-up and deployment of players would remain much the same for the Mozambique match, which he predicted would be more difficult than the Ivory Coast game.

Mozambican trainer Manace Dias, whose team already have return flights to Maputo booked, gave a rather different prognosis, saying that if the hosts repeated their Monday performance, they would reach the semi-finals and the finals.

He told reporters his team, appearing in an event at this level for the first time, had come to Cairo for the practice.

"The main reason for being here is to gain experience by rubbing up against these strong teams. I believe the standard of our squad will have risen considerably by the time we leave," he said.

Mozambique, all amateurs, have demonstrated some flair and daring in their two defeats but commentators say their major defect is the midfield's tendency to pass up way ahead of frontliners Geraldo and Francisco Conde.

Hagler 'just wants to rest now'

LAS VEGAS (R) — Besting Carlos Monzon's record for most successful defences by a middleweight champion may be Marvellous Marvin Hagler's goal, but he's in no hurry to achieve it.

Promoter Bob Arum confirmed Tuesday that Hagler, who knocked out John Paul Mugabi in the 11th round Monday night for his 12th successful defence, two short of Monzon's total, won't fight again until November.

His opponent then will be Thomas Hearns, who earned a rematch by knocking out number one contender James Shuler with one punch 73 seconds into the first round.

If successful against Hearns, Hagler will attempt the record-breaking 14th successful defence in the spring of 1987 against an opponent to be determined.

Arum said it would be "anyone who can beat Robbie Sims." Sims, who is Hagler's half brother, is scheduled to fight former three-

time world champion Roberto Duran on June 23, either in Las Vegas or Boston.

The schedule then is for Hagler to attempt his record-breaking 15th successful defence in the late summer against undisputed world welterweight champion Donald Curry.

Curry is moving up in weight

and on June 23 in Las Vegas will challenge World Boxing Association light middleweight champion Mike McCallum.

Hagler, who did not attend Tuesday's news conference, knocked out the previously undefeated Mugabi at 1:29 of the 11th round at Caesars Palace.

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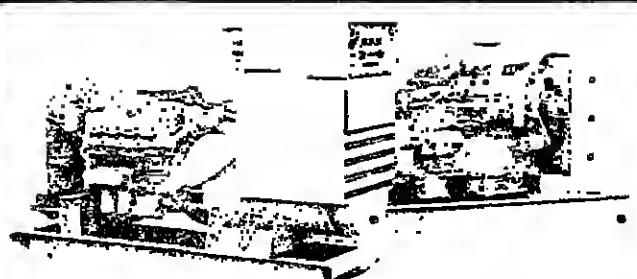
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IMF report says Israel must cut wages, reduce budget deficit

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel must cut wages and further reduce its budget if its eight-month-old austerity plan is to succeed, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team says in a preliminary report on the economy.

The preliminary findings by an IMF delegation preparing an annual report on the Israeli economy criticised the government for cutting its budget deficit through raising taxes and reducing subsidies rather than lowering official spending.

The government has proposed a \$21 billion budget with a \$400 million deficit for 1986.

"We regard the deficit as still too high by about \$400 million and regret that again expenditure

cuts are concentrated mainly in reduced subsidies and defence purchases abroad," said the report, published in the Israeli press on Tuesday.

It said the country's net domestic debt, estimated by Israeli officials at about \$35 billion, would increase by another \$1 billion in 1986.

The report said salaries, temporarily slashed by 20 per cent under the austerity plan, would have to be reduced further in upcoming wage negotiations with the Histadrut Trade Union to prevent inflation from surging again.

Meanwhile, Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal Tuesday claimed that Israel has saved more than \$100 million in the last 12

months due to the drop in world market oil prices.

The government is considering investing more than half that sum in vocational courses to alleviate growing unemployment, Shahal said.

Austerity measures implemented by Peres' government last July have slowed inflation but also brought hundreds of Israeli enterprises to the brink of bankruptcy, raising unemployment, Shahal said.

Shahal said eight per cent of Israel's oil savings have been passed on to consumers through reduced gasoline prices, and the government is considering using the remaining revenues for other economic investment plans.

World Bank seeks new resources

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank announced Wednesday that it would borrow an additional \$1 billion this year, in anticipation of making more loans to poor countries.

The new money would raise the total borrowed by the bank this year to \$10.6 billion.

The bank also announced a new programme of securities for sale to investors in the United States, called continuously offered longer-term securities.

It will extend to 30 years and longer the terms of securities offered in the medium-term note market, which so far has largely offered bonds that mature in two to four years.

The first offering will be for a maximum total of \$500 million, the bank said.

The securities will carry a fixed rate of interest, but the announcement added that the bank intends later to offer securities at variable rates, as well as "zero coupon" bonds that are issued at much less than face value but pay a larger sum when the buyer disposes of them.

The bank, owned by 149 governments, is the largest source of loans to raise living standards in the Third World.

It gets money for its loans, which have totalled more than \$117 billion in 40 years, by borrowing on the world's markets, and has made a profit every year since 1947.

France posts first negative inflation figure in 20 years

PARIS (AP) — French prices fell 0.2 per cent in February, the first negative inflation figure recorded for 20 years, according to provisional figures issued Wednesday.

The National Statistics Institute said it would publish the definitive figure at the end of this month.

February's fall followed a 0.1 per cent rise in January, and reduced the annual inflation rate over the 12 months through February to 3.4 per cent, compared with 4.2 per cent over the 12 months ending in January.

The best monthly retail price performance in decades will give the ruling Socialists a useful argument in the final days of the campaign leading up to legislative elections next Sunday.

The conservative opposition parties are widely expected to beat the Socialists.

Economic analysts pointed out that the good performance in recent months is largely attributable to the drop in the price of imported oil and the steep decline in the dollar against the French franc.

Economics Minister Pierre Berégovoy, speaking to journalists after the weekly cabinet meeting, noted that the last negative price index in France was minus 0.1 per cent in mid-1966.

OAPEC questions aid generosity of Western states to Third world

KUWAIT (R) — A leading Arab oil exporter group said industrialised nations could reap huge savings from the oil price crash but questioned whether they would give as freely as oil producing states to the Third World.

The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) would save \$80 billion on imports this year, compared with 1984, if oil prices stay at current levels.

This could total \$100 billion if the fall in the value of the dollar, used to price most international oil sales, is taken into account, OAPEC said in the March bulletin.

"These savings represent a major transfer of wealth at the expense of the oil exporting countries, which raises questions about how the funds will be recycled and how much developing countries will benefit," the editorial said.

Kuwait-based OAPEC groups Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

The bulletin said Third World aid given by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) during the years of high oil prices absorbed more than 3.0 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP).

The industrialised world, on the other hand, averaged only about half of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of their GDP, it added.

"Recent history has shown that financial surpluses in the hands of the oil exporting countries are deployed more readily in the service of developing countries than when they are retained by the industrial countries," the editorial said.

It said wealth controlled by industrialised countries filtered through to developing countries in the form of aid and loans with such

stringent conditions that most debtor country export revenue went to loan servicing.

"Indeed, the crippling debts of \$1,000 billion currently facing the developing countries are in large measure due to the unbalanced distribution of income in the world today," it added.

The editorial said oil price rises in the 1970s prompted industrialised countries to try and pass on to OPEC states many of their responsibilities towards the Third World.

"The OPEC countries therefore have the right to ask whether the developing countries, oil exporters and non-oil exporters alike, will receive more aid now that the OECD countries are enjoying financial savings on their oil imports," it said.

Venezuela to insist on disciplined, flexible pricing system

Meanwhile, OPEC President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti of Venezuela said Tuesday his country will insist on a flexible but disciplined oil pricing system when the oil cartel meets in Geneva on Sunday.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuela's energy and mines minister, confirmed reports that immediately following the meeting, OPEC group of non-OPEC producers to discuss steps to shore up declining world oil prices.

He said the OPEC meeting, which has been upgraded to extraordinary status, is of great importance in arresting the recent slide in world oil prices to below \$15 a barrel.

"We will again make all efforts possible to establish coherent

strategies in unanimous form," Mr. Hernandez Grisanti told reporters.

He said five non-OPEC producers had been invited to a meeting in Geneva after the OPEC conference. He said the invitations had been limited to countries which had attended previous OPEC meetings.

He said four of the countries had accepted the invitations — Mexico, Malaysia, Brunei and Oman — and the fifth, Egypt, was expected to accept.

"Britain has not taken part before and has in any case shown no interest in doing so," he said.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti, who took over the OPEC presidency in December, said Oman had not been at previous meetings but was added to the list because it had expressed special interest in establishing contacts with the cartel.

He said the OPEC meeting would study a report compiled by a special six-minister committee set up in December to determine ways of defending a market share for the organisation.

"The conference must resolve what market share OPEC is prepared to defend and set a strategy for doing so," he said.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti has previously said OPEC's share should be 16 million to 18 million barrels per day (b/d), roughly its production in the first quarter of this year. Other OPEC ministers have supported different levels.

Speaking after a consultative meeting with former Venezuelan oil ministers, Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said that if OPEC decides on a market share, it must act in coordinated fashion to defend it.

"One of the problems we have now is that with the market difficulties, everybody is applying their own formulas and thus contributing to making the market more anarchical," he said.

He said Venezuela would again propose an idea it first put forward last October for basing OPEC prices on a basket of world crude, including non-OPEC varieties.

On the other hand, a former leader of Venezuela's oil industry has urged Mr. Hernandez Grisanti to give up the OPEC presidency, saying it restricts Venezuela's oil policy.

Mr. Alberto Quiros Corradi, former president of a subsidiary of state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela, said Mr. Hernandez Grisanti had accepted a "hot potato" from his OPEC colleagues.

"(Hernandez Grisanti) should put Venezuela's interests above those of the organisation, just as the other countries are doing," Mr. Quiros Corradi, now a newspaper director, said in a television interview.

Mr. Quiros Corradi, who at one time headed Royal Dutch Shell's subsidiary in Venezuela, said Venezuela as OPEC president faced the virtually impossible task of reconciling factions within the organisation.

"At this moment, Venezuela needs to avoid any restriction on its oil policy and as OPEC president it is limited," he said.

Venezuela, OPEC's third biggest producer with around 1.55 million b/d last year, stands to lose \$4.5 billion or 30 per cent of projected 1986 income due to recent oil price declines.

Suharto calls for patience, hard work to counter falling income

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian President Suharto called Tuesday for patience and hard work in the face of plunging oil prices as the world's largest Muslim nation marked the 20th anniversary of his government.

President Suharto's cabinet ministers fanned out across the country to announce latest development spending as the president exhorted his 165 million countrymen to work harder with fewer funds.

The government has announced belt-tightening measures because of the drop in oil income, which accounts for 60 per cent of Indonesia's foreign exchange revenue.

In a message marking the anniversary of his rule, President Suharto was quoted by the official Antara News Agency as saying although "the number of development projects is not as many as in previous years, this does not mean that there is not as much work to be done."

Despite general elections this May, President Suharto has been forced to cut spending because of the recent sudden slump in oil prices.

The 64-year-old president, who took over the reins of government 20 years ago Tuesday, marked the anniversary quietly, without any state functions.

"These times of sharply falling world oil prices, which have resulted in limited funds for dev-

elopment projects, must be faced with patience and a realistic attitude," President Suharto said.

Indonesians fear devaluation because of the fall in oil prices, and many have opted to convert to dollars.

The Indonesian central bank Tuesday reported continued dollar buying despite government assurances that the Indonesian rupiah would not be devalued.

Oil Minister Subroto said the country, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was adopting as flexible a production and pricing level as possible for crude output.

He cited drops in gasoline prices and gains made in the stock market as encouraging this enthusiasm.

Wall Street stocks expected to rise

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks were expected to continue rising after the Dow Jones industrial average soared 43.10 points to a record 1,746.05 Tuesday — its second biggest one-day gain ever.

"It's not over yet," said Mr. Charles Comer of Oppenheimer, an investment firm, adding, "there's an old expression — the trend is your friend."

"It doesn't look like there's any top yet," said Mr. Newton Zinder of E.F. Hutton. "You just don't fight it, that's all."

"It's a fabulous market," said Mr. John Havens of Kidder Peabody. "I don't see any reason it shouldn't keep going up. People keep trying to talk it down. But it won't go there."

Tuesday's big rise was spurred by a sharp jump in the stock prices of oil companies and lower interest rates.

The Finish topped the old record of 1713.99 set on Feb. 27 and the increase was second only to the 43.41 set on Nov. 3, 1982.

Traders said very strong buying entered the market after the Dow index of 30 blue chip stocks beat the old high.

Volume rose to 187.3 million

from 129.9 million Tuesday, just short of the record volume of 188.7 million shares, and among the 10 busiest sessions on record.

Economist Gary Ciminero of Fleet Financial, a banking firm, said the stock market was catching up with a recent powerful bond rally that has dropped interest rates to the lowest levels in more than eight years.

Mr. Ciminero said stocks may still be undervalued in relation to bonds, and in addition, "there may still be some upward tilt in corporate earnings estimate revisions, which would help a bit."

He said a rise in oil prices, seen briefly Tuesday and evidenced by stronger oil stocks, "is not expected to destroy the basic bullish bent of stocks."

Traders also noted strong buying interest coming from both professionals and small investors.

"The retail customers are getting more involved. The public is getting more optimistic," said Mr. Peter Furniss of the Drexel Burnham Lambert Brokerage.

"You've got a positive psychology which is luring the small investor into the market," said Mr. Alan Ackerman of Herzfeld, and Stern, an investment company.

He cited drops in gasoline prices and gains made in the stock market as encouraging this enthusiasm.

The Hong Kong stocks tumble on results of big local bank

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong stock prices tumbled to their lowest level in five months Wednesday and brokers linked the fall to disappointment over profits at the British colony's biggest bank.

Heavy selling sent the Hang Seng index down 48 points to 1,590.39 for its biggest one-day

loss since November.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Tuesday announced 1985 profits rose only five per cent, far below market expectations, and it blamed the performance on heavy provisions for possible losses on loans to the hard-hit shipping industry.

"The bank's results were a big disappointment," said one broker with a European brokerage firm.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4795/4805	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3970/75	Canadian dollars
	2.2670/80	West German marks
	2.5580/95	Dutch guilders
	1.9200/10	Swiss francs
	46.35/40	Belgian francs
	6.9775/9825	French francs
	1541/1542	Italian lire
	179.98/180.03	Japanese yen
	7.2350/2400	Swedish crowns
	7.1500/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.3740/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	344.30/344.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices rose to record levels just before the close, in active business ahead of the Tuesday's U.K. budget amid sizeable overseas demand, dealers said.

Market sentiment was helped by Tuesday's advance on Wall Street to new peak levels and expectations of a cut in U.K. base rates following a further fall in London money market rates. Dealers noted sterling's firmer trend and steadier crude prices as a contributory factor.

At 1500 GMT both share indices were record levels and also broke record one day gains. The FTSE 100 share index rose 33.6 to 1,630.7 and the F.T. 30 share index gained 32.4 to 1,359.2. Government bonds pared earlier ¼ point gains to around ¼ point on profit-taking against the background of a slightly easier U.S. bond market, dealers said.

Most sectors of the market participated in the advance. ICI rose 8p to 982, Glaxo added 20p to 990, Blue Circle advanced 13p to 641, and Unilever added 50p to 1,510.

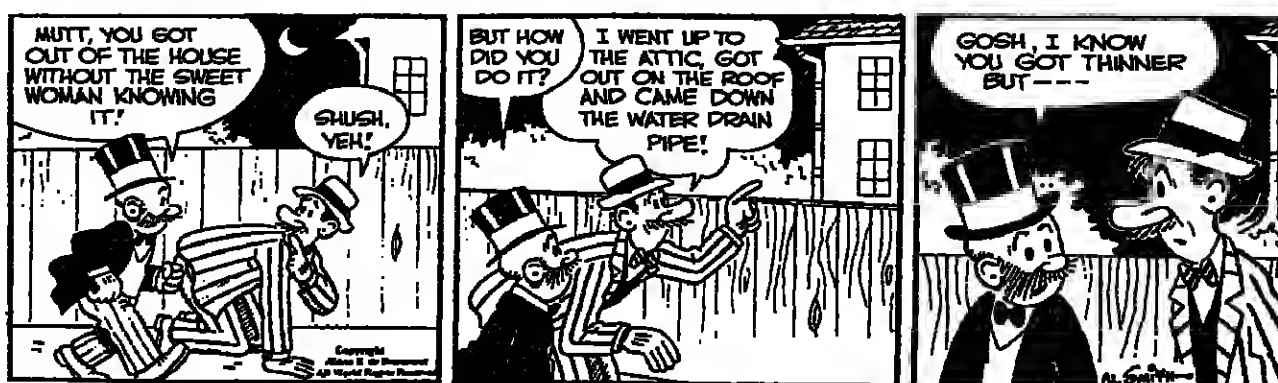
BTR firmed 30p to 490 and GKN put on 12p to 348 after 1985 results at the higher end of market expectations, dealers said. Allied-Lyons was 12p down at 308 on rumours, later confirmed, that Elder DXL had sold its 40.7 million-share stake in the company.

Horoscope and crosswords not received

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



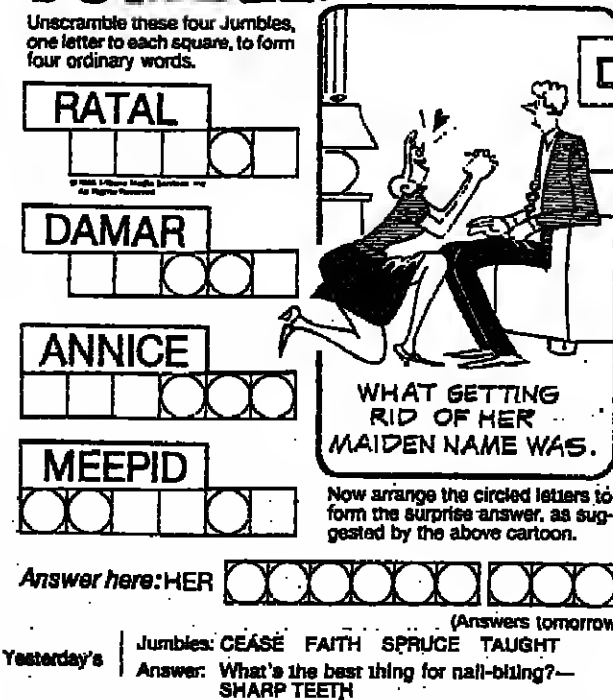
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Gandhi: Colombo should talk directly with rebels

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi says the Sri Lankan government should come out strongly in favour of a solution to the island's ethnic crisis and talk directly to Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Mr. Gandhi told the Telegraph newspaper in an interview published Wednesday that moves by Colombo "come too late, are too small, and more needs to be done."

He said: "The Sri Lankan government must come out strongly in favour of a political solution if they are really in favour of a settlement."

Sri Lankan President Julius Jayawardene said last month the Tamil guerrillas were a military problem and his forces would crush them within the year.

In a reference to India's mediatory role in the crisis, Mr. Gandhi said: "Now we don't want

them (the Sri Lankan government) to talk to us, we want them to talk (directly) to the Tamils."

Ties between New Delhi and Colombo have soured over growing violence in the island's Tamil-dominated north and east. Last month India accused Sri Lanka of pursuing a policy of "genocide" towards the Tamils, a charge Colombo called "sheer lunacy."

Mr. Gandhi also said his planned visit to Pakistan in the first half of this year "looks very difficult now" because of a cooling of relations between the two countries.

Rebel general surrenders to Ecuadorean president

QUITO (R) — Rebel Ecuadorean General Frank Vargas Pazos has quit his Pacific coast headquarters and surrendered to the president, ending a four-day mutiny that had threatened to end in bloodshed.

A government spokesman said that Defence Minister Luis Pineda had also offered his resignation to President Leon Febres Cordero, a major demand by Gen. Vargas during his rebellion.

Gen. Vargas left the air force base at Manta after negotiating an end to the crisis with Mr. Febres Cordero's private secretary, Carlos Pareja, who arrived earlier in the day from Guayaquil, where the president is staying.

Gen. Vargas flew to an air force base at Guayaquil, where he met briefly with Mr. Febres Cordero. He then flew on to the air force base at Quito, the capital, where he will remain while his case is heard.

Jaime Nebot, provincial governor and Mr. Febres Cordero's spokesman in Guayaquil, told reporters that Gen. Pineda had offered his resignation to the president Tuesday, but it had not been accepted yet.

Mr. Nebot said that Gen. Manuel Albuja, the new armed forces chief whose resignation Gen. Vargas had also demanded, would continue with his duties and had not resigned.

Gen. Vargas told reporters at Manta before leaving the base that Gen. Albuja would go on the reserve list as part of the deal.

Gen. Vargas, who launched his rebellion last Friday after a confrontation with Gen. Pineda, has accused the two men of corruption and used this as the justification for his actions.

Soviet aid to Managua estimated at \$260m

WASHINGTON (AP) — United States intelligence officials say the Soviet Union is providing Nicaragua with \$260 million in economic assistance this year.

This figure, which can't be independently confirmed, is larger than what the United States provides any of its allies in the region, the officials said this week.

President Ronald Reagan has asked Congress to authorize \$100 million for military and economic aid to the anti-government rebels in Nicaragua, who are known as Contras.

The United States is nearing the end of the \$27-million Contra aid programme begun last September.

In addition to the Soviet aid to Nicaragua, East Germany is expected to contribute \$35 million and Cuba about \$20 million to the Sandinista government this year, according to the U.S. intelligence officials, who asked not to be identified.

They said the aid levels agreed to by the Soviets and their two allies fell short of Sandinista requests. In the Soviet case, the shortfall was estimated to be \$120 million.

The U.S. intelligence officials said the Soviets are sending 300,000 metric tons of petroleum worth \$78 million.

Danish premier reshuffles cabinet

COPENHAGEN (R) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlüter Wednesday announced a major cabinet reshuffle with the appointment of nine new ministers.

The changes affect the labour, housing, industry, fisheries, social, agriculture, culture, energy and internal ministries.

"This is a far-reaching government change," Mr. Schlüter said after late night talks.

"We have a government which has worked for 3-1/2 years. That is a long period and it is reasonable to alter the team."

Mr. Schlüter's Conservatives lead the centre-right coalition in the 179-seat Danish Parliament. The expected reshuffle had been widely seen as an attempt to strengthen the government in time for the next general elections not later than January 1985.

Financial analysts have said the government will soon have to announce austerity measures to curb the country's current account balance of payments deficit, which reached a preliminary 28 billion crowns (\$3.3 billion) in 1983.

Mr. Schlüter took power from the Social Democrats in 1982 with a coalition of Conservatives, Liberals, centre Democrats and the Christian People's Party.

Six ministers have left the cabinet to be replaced by outsiders, while three were switched to other ministries.

Former Energy Minister Knud Enggaard becomes minister of the interior, replacing Britta Schall Holberg who takes over at agriculture.

Mimi Stilling Jakobsen leaves the Culture Ministry to head social affairs, replacing Elsebeth Kock-Petersen.

The following ministers have left the cabinet: Henning Grove (fisheries), Grethe Fenger-Moeller (labour), Niels Bollmann (housing), Grethe Fenger-Moeller (labour), Niels Bollmann (housing), Ib Stetter (industry), Elsebeth Kock-Petersen (social affairs), Niels Anker Kofoed (agriculture).

New appointments from outside are: Lars P. Gammelgaard (fisheries), Henning Dymose (labour), Thor Pedersen (housing), Nils Willehøj (industry), Professor Hans Peter Clausen (culture), Svend Erik Hovmand (energy).

The Conservatives gain one cabinet seat in the shake-up while the centre Democrats lose a seat.

The small Christian People's Party failed in an attempt to increase its ministerial posts from one to two.

Aquino delays decision on revolutionary government

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corason Aquino's cabinet Wednesday put off a decision on whether to declare a revolutionary government and instead appointed a committee to investigate the question.

A statement after the first meeting of Mrs. Aquino's 25-member cabinet said the committee would be headed by Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales.

The statement gave no indication of when the committee would submit its report.

The decision indicated there might be differences among cabinet members about whether to abolish the country's National Assembly, abrogate the 1973 constitution and declare a revolutionary government.

"It was a very free-wheeling and relaxed discussion," Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile told Reuters after the meeting.

Political allies of deposed leader Ferdinand Marcos, who have an overwhelming majority in the National Assembly, have urged the Aquino administration to govern under the 1973 constitution instead of declaring a revolutionary government.

However, Mrs. Aquino sides want to set the country on a new path and believe a revolutionary government would give them the power to do away with the ruling structures Marcos used to govern.

The cabinet also put off a decision on whether to lower food and other prices, which rose by 100 per cent over the past two years, until the country's economic situation was clearer.

Mr. Aquino's press spokesman, Rene Saguisag, said the cabinet received a report showing there was likely to be a budget deficit of five billion pesos (\$250 million) in the first quarter (January-March) of this year.

Mr. Saguisag said heavy over-spending by Marcos on the Feb. 7 presidential election played a big part in the deficit.

He described the first cabinet meeting since Mrs. Aquino took power on Feb. 25 as relaxed and informal. "There was heavy stuff. Light stuff. It was a getting-to-know-you session."

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COLUMNS 768

Police find body of ritual murder victim

MBABANE (R) — Police have found the body of a victim of one of the most brutal ritual murders ever discovered in Swaziland. A police spokesman said that the man's body was dumped on a river bank with virtually every part mutilated and the head completely skinned. Pieces of human bodies are sometimes used by witchdoctors in this highly traditional and superstitious country to make potions designed to cure illnesses or inflict harm on other people.

Train kills bull elephant

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A passenger train hit and killed a four-tonne 15-year-old bull elephant in the central Malaya jungle, Wildlife and National Parks Department Director Jasmi Abdul said Wednesday. The train was undamaged.

Yugoslavia reports 3 AIDS deaths

BELGRADE (R) — Three Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) victims have died in Yugoslavia in six months, the Politika Express newspaper has reported. The latest victim, an elderly haemophiliac, died last week in a Belgrade clinic and was believed to have acquired AIDS from a blood transfusion, the newspaper said.

Bad cheque artist writes another one

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Red-faced police have said they had allowed a woman accused of passing \$100,000 worth of bad cheques to post bail with a cheque. It bounced. Jerri Emberton, 26, charged with five counts of theft, was released on bail. Police are now looking for her.

'Pussycat' puts bite on circus owner

WELLINGTON (R) — Australian circus owner Frank Glasser, blood still seeping from deep tooth marks in his shoulder, blew his lioness a kiss Wednesday and called her "pussycat." On Tuesday night, the terminology was rather different as the 136 kilogramme two-year-old "Princess" went for Glasser's throat during a rehearsal routine. "I just wanted her to jump once more — but once more must have been once too many," the 49-year-old Swiss-born trainer told reporters. Glasser wrenched the lioness away from his throat, ending up instead with tooth punctures 75 millimetres deep on his shoulder. Last year the animal scratched his back, causing a wound which needed 78 stitches.

Sailor alive after 4 months in Atlantic

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian sailor has been found alive and well in mid-Atlantic after drifting for four months following engine failure on his fishing boat, the Oslo daily Aftenposten said Wednesday. Einar Geir Einarson, 45, had not been heard of since setting out single-handed from Lisbon last August 31, bound for Trinidad. His family, who reported him missing in December, said he had expected to make the crossing in two months. The newspaper said Einarson was found on Saturday by a Liberian gas tanker. He appeared haggard but fit and told the ship's crew he had lived on rainwater and fish for the past three weeks after running out of provisions. "He took on new supplies, then shovelled off," said Captain Clark Einarson, who refused further help, estimated it would take the current another 40 days to carry him to Trinidad.

Pakistan moves to defuse showdown on poppy raid

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government has appointed a commission to probe a bloody weekend clash between opium poppy growers and police in the North West Frontier province in which at least eight people were killed.

The government, aiming to avoid a showdown in parliament over the crackdown against opium farmers in the province's Gadoon area, also gave an assurance Tuesday night that a member supporting the growers would be freed from prison.

About 30 people were wounded in the fighting on Saturday. On Sunday, many government supporters joined critics in a walkout from the National Assembly sparked by the arrest of the member from Gadoon, Yaqub Khan Jadoon.

Following the announcement of the government moves by Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Iqbal Ahmad Khan on behalf of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, a debate on the issue in the National Assembly was postponed until Friday.

Mr. Ahmad Khan said a high court judge would conduct an impartial inquiry into the Gadoon incident and Jadoon would be brought to the assembly on Friday to speak on the affair.

New York council approves homosexual rights bill

NEW YORK (R) — A city council committee has passed a civil rights bill for homosexuals after a public hearing that brought shouts of "nazi" and "sodomite" to city hall.

The General Welfare Committee passed the bill, which will be considered by the whole council later this month, by a vote of five to one. Versions of the bill have been defeated for the last 14 years.

"God created Adam and Eve. He did not create Adam and Steve, shouted one Protestant Evangelist to rousing applause from Catholic and Orthodox Jewish opponents of the bill.

"You may think of me as a faggot, but you will not make me ashamed of how I live and how I love," said homosexual rights advocate Andrew Humm, who won a standing ovation from half of the audience and a kiss from the man sitting next to him.

All day long, a parade of forceful supporters and angry opponents spoke strongly on the legislation.

Proponents said the bill would prevent discrimination against homosexuals in housing and employment. Opponents said it would lead to the teaching of homosexual lifestyles in schools as acceptable alternatives.

Columbia had problems as Challenger's

WASHINGTON (R) — The space shuttle Columbia faced problems during its mission last January as potentially catastrophic as those which led to the explosion of the shuttle Challenger, U.S. television has reported.

At least two potentially life-threatening problems occurred on the Columbia mission, the most trouble-plagued in the shuttle series until the Challenger disaster, but they were corrected before its Jan. 12 launch, the ABC Television Network reported.

It cited an internal memo, written two weeks before the Jan. 28 Challenger explosion, which documents "operations efficiency and safety issues" related to the Columbia launch.

The memo, written by Arnold Aldrich, space shuttle manager at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, said that during one of seven attempts to launch Columbia, a console operator at Cape Canaveral inadvertently opened a valve on an external tank on Jan. 6, draining some 18,000 pounds of liquid oxygen out of the tank, ABC said.

The launch attempt was scrubbed for other reasons, but the lack of liquid oxygen was not discovered until later, the report said.

Had NASA elected to launch, without knowing about the fuel shortage, Columbia's engines would have shut down early and kept the shuttle from reaching proper orbit, possibly forcing an emergency landing attempt in Spain, the memo said.

During one of Columbia's earlier aborted launch attempts, shuttle technicians found that the temperature probe, shaped like a nail, had broken loose because of "inadequate weld" and lodged in a valve leading to a main engine, ABC said.

No sensors detected the broken probe.

If NASA had proceeded with the launch at the time, Columbia's engine might have blown up eight minutes later when it tried to shut down, it said.

Among the crew of the last Columbia mission was representative Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat.

"Had we launched it could have been potentially a bad day," Nelson told the television network.

"And how do I feel about that? I don't like that one bit."

Aldrich was quoted as saying that the problems were "certainly safety-critical areas and required strong action," but they were taken care of after they were discovered.

ABC also reported that an analysis after Columbia's Jan. 18 landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California showed that one of the spacecraft's brakes was damaged.

NASA Chief Astronaut John Young wrote a lengthy memo which was made public on Saturday saying astronauts were lucky to be alive because of what he called an awesome list of safety flaws.

Earlier Tuesday, two astronauts criticised shuttle safety, with one saying pressure to launch more than one mission per month steadily eroded NASA's emphasis on safety over the year.

Astronaut Vance Brand said he agreed with Young's criticism.

Astronaut Gordon Fullerton, interviewed on television, said: "The feeling among the astronauts was that the pendulum had swung a little too far on the side of those who were trying to maintain the schedule."

Last week, astronaut Sally Ride, America's first woman in space and a member of the presidential panel investigating the Challenger explosion, said she is "not ready" to fly another shuttle mission given the problems uncovered so far.

NASA has been ordered not to take on new commitments for satellite launches in the foreseeable future and has been told to break off new negotiations with Britain to launch one of its communications satellites, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

It said the order had been issued by William Graham, NASA's acting administrator, in a letter to Richard Truly, the agency's new director of shuttle operations.

Graham's letter said that the Challenger explosion would halt shuttle flights for at least a year and that the agency should encourage private space companies to launch satellites that would previously have been put in space by shuttle craft.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

GLITTERY GOTHAMITES
By Neil Mc Carthy

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3 Privy pungent
4 Really mist
5 Signaled and
6 Marked
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13 Peruvian
14 More paid
15 Critchall
16 Cut — (verb)
17 Church court
18 NY-born publisher-columnist
19 Name's man
20 Sealed fish
21 Arthur Hemm
22 Uge
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28 Before graphic or duty
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42 Coast island
43 Water retention
44 Tray
45 Piled of 100A
46 TV's Howard
47 Ripe
48 Corn units
49 Before graphic or duty
50 Former Br.
51 Protective
52 Ludwig or Jennings
53 Pamper
54 Indivisible
55 NY-born actor
56 "Wizard of Oz"
57 Pardo and
58 Patch
59 Paving stone
60 Archangel
61 Monk's title
62 Made a lap
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